

R05-15-A-045

December 17, 2014

Environmental Management Support Inc.
Attn: Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mrs. Cromwell:

Cuyahoga County ("the County") is pleased to submit this application for a \$600,000 USEPA Community-Wide Brownfields Assessment coalition grant on behalf of our Northcoast Brownfield Coalition ("NcBC") partners: the City of Cleveland, through its Department of Economic Development (the "City"), the First Suburbs Consortium ("FSC") and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health ("CCBH"). Our coalition was formed in 2004 and developed a highly successful brownfield program under our previous assessment grant awards. On behalf of our partners we are requesting community-wide assessment funding for the following, strategically-based Target Areas within the County:

1. **Opportunity Corridor**- This embattled sector of Cleveland now occupied by 67,089 residents, exceeds the City/County/State and Nation in its high rates of Obesity, Asthma and Diabetes. In addition to removing the area's polluted environmental issues, there is a dire need to create "safe neighborhoods" access to fresh food sources for these residents.
2. **East 185th Street Corridor**- flanks the cities of Cleveland and Euclid from Interstate 90 to Lake Erie. It serves the City of Cleveland to the west and the City of Euclid to the east. Devastated by the loss of industry and left with former commercial-use sites, including: abandoned car dealerships, vacated movie theaters, and former drycleaner operations, these two communities are working together to redevelop this area for the health and welfare of their residents.
3. **First Suburbs Target Sites**- These FSC communities have suffered great population losses, which have been compounded by the disappearance of the strong manufacturing base that was the economic driver for the health and welfare of these 18 communities. Funding through this grant will allow us to focus on the specific key sites, identified by FSC members, including assessing and cataloging identified sites, leading to their eventual redevelopment.

We appreciate this opportunity to apply for FY15 Brownfields Assessment Funding to effectively continue our efforts to address the environmental issues that exist in these critical areas of our county. *In accordance with your guidelines, the following information related to our proposal is provided:*

Threshold Documentation: Appendix 1

Applicant Information: Cuyahoga County ("County"), 2079 East 9th Street, Cleveland, OH 44115. Coalition members include: City of Cleveland ("City"), Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium ("FSC"), and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health ("CCBH").

Applicant Eligibility: County and City are both General Purpose Units of Local government as defined less than 40 CRF Part 31. First Suburbs Consortium is a Regional Council of Government as stated in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167. Cuyahoga County Board of Health is also an eligible applicant authorized under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3709. Eligibility Letters are included in **Appendix 2.**

1. Applicant Identification:

Cuyahoga County, Ohio
2079 East 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

DUNS Number: 623945391

2. Funding Requested:

Grant Type: Community-wide Assessment

Federal Funds Requested: \$600,000

Contamination: Hazardous Substance: \$382,850; Petroleum \$ 217,150

Type of Assessment: Coalition

3. Locations: Targeted Areas within the Cities of Cleveland, Bedford, Bedford Heights, Berea, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, Fairview Park, Garfield Heights, Lakewood, Maple Heights, Parma, Parma Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights and Warrensville Heights. All Named Communities are located in Cuyahoga County, Ohio

4. Contacts

Project Director:

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5. Date Submitted

December 19, 2014

6. Project Period

Project period will not exceed three years


7. Population

Population of Cuyahoga County: 1,272,533
Population of the City of Cleveland: 394,335
Population of Combined Targeted Areas: 491,053

8. Assessment Other Factors Checklist: Appendix 3

Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.
Core partner of HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities Grant.
Recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Grant.

Sincerely,


Larry Benders

Director

Cc: Brad Bradley & Romona Smith; U.S. EPA Region 5
Enclosure: Grant Proposal with Attachments

Ranking Criteria for Assessment Grants

1: Community Need

1(a) Targeted Community and Brownfields

1(a)(i) Targeted Community Description: Cuyahoga County is the targeted community. Located in Northeast Ohio, with 30.3 miles of Lake Erie shoreline Cuyahoga County has land area of 458.67 square miles. With 1,272,533¹ residents, Cuyahoga County is the most populated county in the State of Ohio.

Established in 1810, the population of Cuyahoga County grew at a slow pace until the creation of transportation systems such as, the Ohio-Erie Canal and Railroads were built. Affordable transportation combined with the advent of the industrial age, attracted a large and diverse migration to Cleveland, the county seat, from 1870 to 1914. “This time period was known as the ‘new immigration’ in which many Southern and Eastern Europeans immigrated to America due to the shortages of land and Europe’s political climate. Large numbers of Italians, Austrians, Hungarians and Russians”² as well as many others populations were attracted to Cuyahoga County due to our abundant natural resources (land & fresh water) and job opportunities. These people brought their rich, diverse cultures with them. That heritage was expressed in neighborhood clusters and reflected in an array of languages, foods, art and architectural styles. These people established homes and became the laborers, machinists and factory workers that created Cuyahoga County as a center for innovation, and specialized in various types of manufacturing, including; automotive production, electric products, and clothing manufacturing (second only to New York City). Cuyahoga County is known for key contributions to the industrial age including: the production of battery powered cars, the first oil refinery and the invention of the alkaline battery. Our region was home to General Electric and Standard Oil, two of the world’s largest energy providers at the time.

Both the City of Cleveland and our “inner ring” suburban communities have seen consistent population stagnation and job loss since the 1960's. Cleveland alone has experienced the decline of population from almost 900,000 in 1960, to its current population of 394,335³. In addition we have gained a reputation for environmental abuse and contamination of our natural resources. The closing of factories and manufacturing plants left behind several abandoned properties and environmentally contaminated land throughout the city of Cleveland. In 1969, the Cuyahoga River caught fire and would go on to catch fire again. Also, one of our local chemical companies was used during World War II to produce nuclear weapons which has left that site contaminated with uranium radiation to this day⁴. These are just two of the many examples of how our industrial past is impacting our quality of life today.

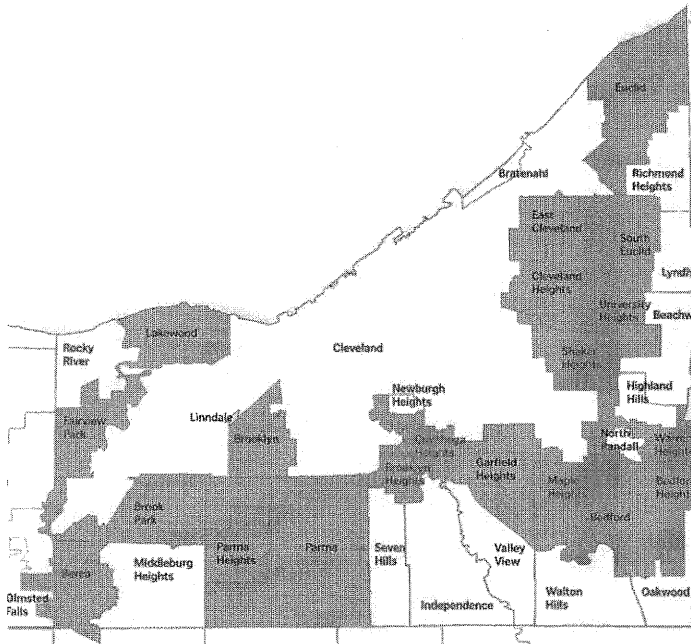
The 18 “inner-ring” suburbs joined together as a council of governments known as the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium (FSC) in 1996. The FSC represents 466,531 residents in 18 communities of Cuyahoga County. The FSC communities “grew-up” along-side Cleveland in the Industrial Age and border the city of Cleveland in a “zigzag necklace” style as shown on Map 1.

¹2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

² Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, 1987 compiled/edited by David D. Van Tassel & John, J. Grabowski, Case Western Reserve, 1987

³ 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

⁴ Cleveland Plain Dealer (online: http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/01/radioactive_industrial_site_st.html)



Map 1: Cuyahoga County First Suburbs Communities.

During the recent “Great Recession” many of the companies located in Cleveland and FSC Communities went out of business or relocated out of Ohio. As a result, we have suffered great population losses compounded by the disappearance of a strong manufacturing base that was once the foundation of our region. Left behind are vacant buildings which had been former manufacturing, industrial and commercial operations along with associated retail businesses such as former gas stations, automotive dealerships and small parts-producer factories.

The Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (“NcBC”) partners are Cleveland, FSC, and Cuyahoga County Board of Health (Appendix 2). NcBC will draw on the strengths of its coalition members and our community agencies which have committed to addressing the environmental challenges posed by brownfields and provide **environmental benefits** (to create healthier, cleaner neighborhoods), **social benefits** (to support existing communities, while incorporating sustainable, equitable redevelopment principles); and **economic benefits** (to create/retain jobs and enhance these local neighborhood economies). We propose to assess properties located in our *targeted communities* defined as:

1. **Opportunity Corridor** - This desolate area of Cleveland was the subject of was the focus of a 2010 USEPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWP) grant awarded to Cleveland. The resulting plan⁵ issued in 2013 concluded that “brownfields are omnipresent and extensive in this area,” and noted that over 100 acres (48% of total acreage) were identified or perceived brownfields. Over 77 acres (37%) were considered high-risk or under regulatory enforcement. The plan estimated that over \$18.5 million will be required to assess sites and lay the groundwork for their eventual cleanup and revitalization. This target area has 67,089 residents who are mostly minorities. Table 1 shows this area has high rates of unemployment and poverty, and Table 3 notes extremely high rates of asthma, obesity and diabetes in area. A strong link can be made between the poor health of the residents and the on 225 acres of potential redevelopment sites identified in the AWP study. This corridor will undergo a \$324 million revitalization intending to link Interstate-490 with University Circle by way of a 3.5-mile boulevard through Cleveland’s challenged east side neighborhoods. While specific sites have not been identified in this area, data from the study along with community member input will be used to identify sites.

2. **East 185th Street Corridor** - This corridor spans the cities of Cleveland and Euclid from Interstate 90 to Lake Erie. This main corridor encompasses the City of Cleveland's Northeast Shores neighborhood to the west and the city of Euclid to the east. In the past five years, these

⁵ City of Cleveland Planning Commission (<http://planning.city.cleveland.oh.us/oppCorridor.html>)

adjoining areas have been devastated by the loss of industry and population. These two adjoining communities are working together to redevelop this area for the Transportation for Livable Community Initiative (TLCI), a grant awarded to Cuyahoga County through the HUD-DOT_EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (2010). The LTCI study will determine the environmental impacts of the former commercial-use sites ranging from abandoned car dealerships, auto repair, a vacated movie theater, and retail strips with a history of drycleaner operations. As a result, residents in this target area desperately need subsequent funding and government assistance to provide environmental assessment of these vacant sites.

3. First Suburbs Target Sites- Focusing on the targeted areas identified by FSC members, USEPA assessment resources will be utilized to assess and catalog sites, leading to their eventual redevelopment. These FSC communities have suffered great population losses, which have been compounded by the disappearance of the strong manufacturing base that was the economic driver for the health and welfare of these 18 communities.

TABLE 1: Demographic Information and Socio-Economic statistics for Targeted Areas

	First Suburbs Targeted Projects (by Census Tracts)	East 185th Corridor (by Census Tract)	Opportunity Corridor (by Census Tracts)	First Suburbs Communities	Cleveland	Cuyahoga County	Ohio	National
Population [i]	41,834	17,869	6,653	466,531	394,335	1,272,533	11,549,590	311,536,594
Unemployment % [i]	5.34%	11.28%	14.17%	7.29%	11.70%	7.70%	6.40%	6.20%
Poverty % [i]	4.7% - 29.5%	14.7% - 61.10%	40.9% - 87.0%	4.8% - 42.60%	35.40%	18.30%	15.80%	15.40%
Minority [i]	43.85%	73.32%	83.57%	3.75% - 95.53%	65.49%	38.91%	19.16%	36.75%
Median Household Income [i]	\$29,262 - \$64,256	\$10,543 - \$43,676	\$7,730 - \$21,681	\$20,577 - \$77,951	\$26,217	\$43,804	\$48,308	\$53,046
Population < 5yrs [i]	7.45%	6.25%	12.94%	5.49%	6.81%	5.81%	6.12%	6.44%
Percentage Females Childbearing Age (15-44 yrs.) [i]	39.98%	39.01%	33.52%	37.78%	41.24%	37.86%	38.69%	40.57%
Percentage Change in Young Adult Population (25-44 yrs.) 2000-2010 [ii]	-18.48%	-38.83%	-36.32%	-20.53%	-28.91%	-22.40%	-13.09%	-3.42%
Elderly [i]	14.19%	14.33%	13.00%	14.58%	12.46%	15.73%	14.43%	13.43%

[i] 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (American Fact Finder 12/11/2014).

[ii] 2000 & 2010 Census Data (American FactFinder 12/11/2014).

1(a)(ii) Demographic Information - Like so many other cities/counties in our region, the decline in key industries and loss in population has had a tremendous impact on the **Welfare** of our remaining population - particularly in the project's targeted areas. Table 1 contains some very recent data on our target areas and our region as a whole. Clearly our region is facing unprecedented economic conditions as we far exceed Ohio and National averages in categories like Unemployment, Poverty Rate, and Population Loss.

1(a)(iii) Brownfields- Cuyahoga County totals 294,258 acres of land: 90% is zoned for residential, retail, public use and parking⁶. The remaining 10% is zoned for commercial industrial land use. Through our previous USEPA grants we have been able to identify and assess 4,138 acres or 8% of our formerly used commercial industrial sites. The remaining 92% (22,849 acres) of these sites have not been assessed. The goal of this project is to concentrate

⁶ Data provided by Cuyahoga County Planning Commission for Cuyahoga Dept. of Development.

our efforts on the vacant and abandoned sites located within our targeted areas as defined in Section 1(a)(i) above and detailed later in Table 2.

Our county planning commission recently obtained data from a 2012 survey indicating that 26,640 buildings were vacant county-wide. 4,798 of the structures were zoned commercial or industrial with the remaining 21,842 being residential units⁷. Furthermore, data obtained from the USPS showed that mail was undeliverable to over 762 commercial/industrial buildings in the City of Cleveland alone in 2014.

FY15 USEPA funding is desperately needed to reduce the negative impacts of brownfields to our current population. As noted above, Cuyahoga County has assessed previous sites that were redeveloped in these areas leading to the need for more assessment of other structures. This program was established by the FY05 grant and expanded to include the impacts of the sensitive populations living and working in these areas.

1(a)(iv) Cumulative Environmental Issues: *The residents of the Targeted Areas identified in the NcBC proposal are disproportionately affected by environmental issues.* A Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey⁸ conducted from 2005 to 2009 within Cleveland has shown that the residents in the Opportunity Corridor and the East 185th Corridor communities suffer more from negative environmental factors and have a greater incidence of environmental-related health issues than the general Cuyahoga County population. The abandoned commercial/industrial sites located in these areas have not only contributed to the poor health of the residents but have also attracted criminal activities including arson, drug dealing and prostitution – representing a danger to all residents but especially children. For example illegal dumping is very prevalent throughout the five neighborhoods that make up the Opportunity Corridor, exposing residents to contaminated materials from across the region. As developers and landowners from outside the community leave buildings vacant and sites contaminated in their wake, residents are left to deal with blight, health issues and revitalization.

Table 2: Environmental/Health Effects for Target Area Brownfields

Targeted Areas/Sites	Former Uses	Planned Redevelopment	Potential/Actual Contaminants	Exposure Pathways	Health Effects	Environmental Impacts
<i>Opportunity Corridor Area</i>	Chemical manufacturing, heavy metal industrial sites	Community Revitalization, implementation of extensive community designed "corridor redesign"	Heavy Metals, PCB's, Petroleum	Direct Contact, Vapor intrusion, inhalation	High Cancer, Asthma Rates	Low-income, sensitive populations, Extensive list of vacant/abandoned buildings and lots in this target area
<i>E 185th Corridor Area</i>	Former Auto Repair and Dealerships, Vacant Retail, theatre	Community services, retail needs of adjoining residential neighborhood	Petroleum, Asbestos, Lead	Direct Contact, inhalation, vapor intrusion	Central Nervous System, Respiratory, Liver, skin, Kidneys Cancer	Numerous vacant buildings located among existing residential Neighborhoods
<i>FSC Targeted Sites - West</i>	Former Auto Repair Shops; Car wash; Older office building sites; former gas stations; former drycleaners	City Acquisition, Brownfield inventory	Petroleum, asbestos, PCB's, Chlorinated Solvents	Direct Contact, inhalation, vapor intrusion	Central Nervous System, Respiratory, Liver, skin, Kidneys Cancer	Proximity to Cuyahoga River tributaries', Stormwater run off, leaking tanks Contaminants working their way to our drinking water source (Lake Erie)
<i>FSC Targeted Sites - East</i>	Former manufacturing sites; former car dealerships; vacated gas stations	Commercial/ Retail/ community Services	Petroleum Products, asbestos	Direct Contact, inhalation, vapor intrusion	Central Nervous System, Respiratory, Liver, skin, Kidneys Cancer	higher populations of Elderly, women of Child-bearing age, low-income population residing in areas surrounding these sites
<i>FSC Targeted Sites - Southeast</i>	Former Manufacturing, former concrete plant; former retail w/ uses; former medical buildings; machine shops retail centers	Various- determined by forthcoming Community Master Plans	PCB's, VOC's SVOC's Mercury, Lead	Direct Contact, inhalation, vapor intrusion	Central Nervous System, Respiratory, Liver, skin, Kidneys Cancer	Exposure to various metals to site user's and surrounding residences
<i>FSC Targeted Regions- Southwest</i>	Auto Repair; Former Greenhouses; former school buildings	Low- Income Housing Associated elderly Retail services	Petroleum, Asbestos Lead	Direct Contact, inhalation, vapor intrusion	Central Nervous System, Respiratory, Liver, skin, Kidneys Cancer	Prevalence of sites next to urban/residential areas pose threats to human & environmental health

⁷ Case Western Reserve University - NEOCANDO Data Set (<http://neocando.case.edu>)

⁸ 2014 Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office data

1(b) Impacts on Targeted Community: *Abandonment of brownfields and the resulting disinvestment have disproportionately harmed the target areas.* The lack of economic activity has led to rampant poverty in these neighborhoods and disinvestment has reduced access to healthy lifestyle options. As a result, these areas have suffered significant negative health impacts. Table 2 shows that many of our targeted sites are located adjacent to residential neighborhoods and are affecting the health of high-risk, sensitive populations in these low-income, ethnically diverse communities. While there is no current behavioral risk data available for residents in the First Suburbs target areas, a recent study based on Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Surveys⁹ was conducted on over 6,300 Cleveland residents from 2005 to 2009 by the Cleveland Department of Public Health and Cuyahoga County Board of Health - both of which are NcBC coalition members. The results show that residents in our target community neighborhoods suffer disproportionately from incidences of obesity, asthma, tobacco use, and diabetes. Furthermore, health data from census tracts associated the 39 sites assessed through our FY09 coalition grant showed that up to 34% of children younger than 5 years tested high for lead poisoning¹⁰.

Table 3: Health Risk Determinants¹¹

Health Risks	Targeted Project Area *	Cleveland	Cuyahoga County	Ohio	US
Obesity	32.7-40.4%%	35.00%	26.30%	29.80%	26.90%
Asthma	15.60%	14.00%	10.20%	9.90%	8.80%
Tobacco Use	33.2-37.5%	31.30%	15%	20.30%	17.90%
Diabetes	11.3-13.9%	13.90%	10.10%	10.10%	8.30%

As shown on Table 3, this low-income, ethnically diverse population in the Cleveland target area corridors is disproportionately vulnerable to the negative effects of brownfields.

Asthma rates for residents in the targeted corridors are almost double the national average. Rates were twice as high among females (16.8%) than males (7.4%). In addition, Cleveland adults with asthma are 74% more likely to have high blood pressure and 84% more likely to be obese. Health risks for Clevelanders who suffer from diabetes include high blood pressure, asthma, obesity and less physical activity. Diabetes is especially prevalent among African Americans, who, as noted in Table 2 represent 52-96% of the population in the neighborhoods of *these Targeted Cleveland corridors*.

1(c) Financial Need

1(c)(i) Economic Conditions: *Local economic conditions support the Coalition's funding need.* Even before the 2008 recession, Cuyahoga County faced economic challenges including foreclosures and job loss. With property taxes constituting the bulk of the County's tax base, decreased property values caused by foreclosures and abandonment have significantly impacted its fiscal resources. The First Suburbs communities and the city of Cleveland have suffered from decreased income tax collections along with a significant reduction in State and Federal funding. Population has been falling for decades as urban sprawl has seen jobs and population move to surrounding counties. Cleveland's population has fallen by almost 100,000 since 2000 alone and decreasing by nearly 500,000 since 1960. Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland, previously known for its strong industrial development, have now faced industrial

⁹ Data Brief Sheets, Behavioral Health Surveys research conducted in 2005 to 2009 by Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health in cooperation with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Accessed on the web at: (<http://www.prchn.org/BRFSS.aspx>)

¹⁰ Data analyzed by Epidemiology, Surveillance and Informatics at The Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Original data obtained through the Ohio Department of Health's Vital Statistics Program and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 2012.

¹¹ Data Brief Sheets, Behavioral Health Surveys research conducted in 2005 to 2009 by Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health in cooperation with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Accessed on the web at: (<http://www.prchn.org/BRFSS.aspx>)

decline and disinvestment for several decades. Moreover, the scale of the brownfield problem in these targeted communities requires additional financial assistance. The local governments simply do not have the resources to undertake this task and it is cost-prohibitive for private companies to acquire, remediate, and build on brownfields – especially when there are cheaper alternatives in neighboring counties.

1(c)(ii) Economic Effects on Brownfields: *Brownfield challenges have especially affected the economies of Cleveland and the First Suburbs.* Disinvestment and abandonment have been disproportionately high in the various neighborhoods that make up the Opportunity Corridor. The City of Cleveland Department of Building and Housing indicates that over 10,000 structures require demolition in the City alone. Additionally, the 225 acres surveyed in the Area-Wide Plan for Opportunity Corridor found that 47 of the 183 total buildings (25%) were vacant or abandoned. This extensive burden is borne both by the municipal budget and by the residents who are forced to confront unsafe, abandoned structures on a daily basis¹².

The disinvestment in the area and shuttering of factories has left many low-skilled individuals unemployed. With factories relocating to suburban and exurban areas that lack public transportation access, there quickly became a shortage of low-skilled jobs. As noted in Table 1, poverty rates in the Opportunity Corridor census tracts range from 40.9% to 87% with unemployment at 14.2%. Both of these key statistics are well above the averages of the country, state, county and city. Poverty rates in the East 185th Street Corridor census tracts range from 14.7% to 61.10% with unemployment at 11.28%. While these numbers show improvement from the Opportunity Corridor, they still greatly exceed the national averages in their respective categories. To make detrimental effects more pronounced, there is another reality that these important subsections of Cleveland must face. Both corridor projects show a *"fleeing" or loss of the next generation of residents* (ages 25-44) at rates ranging from 36-38%. The rate of loss of this next generation to the City of Cleveland is roughly 29%, to Cuyahoga County is 22%, while only 13% to the State of Ohio. The FSC's population loss of this demographic is 18.5%, still much higher than the national average of 3.42%. These wage earners are important to the tax base and eventual economic health and recovery of our region.

This has all aggregated into a "perfect storm" that has drastically reduced the local tax base. Further, the high cost of brownfield remediation has discouraged local development and increased blight substantially. When taking a hard look at the economics of brownfields, it is impossible to ignore that the presence of brownfields has created and will continue to create a disadvantage to those that happen to live nearby. There are few regions that have been hit as hard by this pandemic as ours. The mission of Cuyahoga County is to address the legacy of contaminated, vacant industrial manufacturing structures and sites in our target project areas to revitalize and reuse these former properties to attract leading edge companies in the sustainable fields of Bio-Engineering, Clean energy manufacturing and associated service industries.

2: Project Description and Feasibility of Success

2(a)(i) Project Description: The Assessment Grant proposal continues our comprehensive approach to brownfield redevelopment, drawing on the strengths and experience of the NcBC members to provide **environmental benefits** by fostering cleaner, healthier communities, **economic benefits** in creating/retaining jobs, enhancing local economies, and **social benefits**

¹²Data Brief Sheets, Behavioral Health Surveys research conducted in 2005 to 2009 by Cleveland Department of Public Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health in cooperation with Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Accessed on the web at: <http://www.prchn.org/BRFSS.aspx>.

through promoting sustainable, vibrant and more equitable communities. The plans of Cuyahoga County's 59 communities all support brownfield redevelopment and emphasize the cleanup of brownfield sites, reusing existing buildings, infill/compact development, reducing urban sprawl, and addressing social inequities and health disparities. The plans are: *Vibrant NEO 2040 Vision, 2014* (Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium), *Cuyahoga County Western Reserve Fund*, and the *Cuyahoga County, Urban County Five Year Consolidated Plan*. **The NcBC Coalition** will: 1) Involve the community in brownfield redevelopment through meetings and outreach, 2) Assess properties that address the goals of existing regional, county, city and suburb plans, 3) Add to the existing brownfields inventory to better understand the extend of brownfields in the County, and 4) Further assist the communities that have limited resources.

2(a)(ii) Project Timing: *NcBC expended its FY09 grant in two years, having assessed 32 properties: completing 30 Phase I and 26 Phase II assessments, which totaled 162 acres.* NcBC expects to expend the FY15 grant award within three years or less. A pipeline of projects has been developed by our partners at the First Suburbs Development Consortium, as well as by the city of Cleveland. Consulting firms will be procured, as needed, to meet the assessment needs of the applicants. NcBC's review committee is already in existence and is populated with representatives from the Coalition as well as local government and outreach groups.

2(a)(iii) Site Selection: NcBC has not selected specific sites to assess; rather it has identified three focus areas based on expected redevelopment projects and/or known contamination. These areas are detailed in Section 1(a)(i) and Table 2 above.

The selection process will consist of: 1) nomination of sites by citizens and/or local governments, 2) screening sites for eligibility and access, 3) completion of application by sponsoring party, 4) sites are reviewed, evaluated and prioritized based on proposed end uses, proximity to public transportation, parks, and greenspace (or need of parks/greenspace/gardens), incorporation of green energy and stormwater management practices, land uses, and incorporation of Smart Growth Principles (compact building design, walkable neighborhoods, sense of place, create or preserve green space, etc.) and scoring of application by our Community Assessment Initiative Review committee, 5) review and approval by Cuyahoga County, who will in turn submit eligibility determinations to USEPA for each project under consideration. Community feedback will inform the selection process, as will projects that demonstrate compliance with program priorities, such as: likelihood of redevelopment, job creation/retention, sites near natural resources and sensitive populations, ability to leverage funds, number of acres assessed, community support and need. All sites require access agreements and must be current.

2(b)(i) Task Description:

Task 1 – Community Outreach/Brownfield Identification– Outreach will include: notification to residents and neighborhood groups of community meetings via mail and postings on NcBC-related websites; public notices in newspapers; meetings with communities to identify concerns and obtain input for prioritizing sites for assessment; and educating residents about brownfields in concert with CCBH. Grant funds will be used for travel to meetings, supplies for outreach materials and consultant attendance. **Outputs:** # of public meetings, advisory meetings, and amount of outreach materials developed. **Outcomes:** # of meeting attendees, amount of materials distributed and information disseminated.

Task 2 – Grant Management– Management will include: tracking measurable and projected outcomes; preparing reports for USEPA; procuring and managing consultants; reporting to the

CAI Review Committee and other stakeholders and other programmatic support to comply with the Cooperative Agreement. Grant funds will be used for travel to brownfield sites and supplies/mail costs. **Outputs:** Quarterly/semi-annual and annual reports, MBE/WBE forms, ACRES/BIT updates, consultant procurement. **Outcomes:** # of reports/forms submitted on time, timely ACRES/BIT updates, procurement compliance with 40 CFR 31.

Task 3 – Phase I and II Assessments– Using the site prioritization in Task 1, NcBC will perform up to 10 Phase I Assessments (\$4,000/each = \$40,000), up to 11 Phase II Assessments (\$40,000/each = \$440,000) and up to 3 Remedial Action Plans (\$30,000/each = \$90,000). \$570,000 has been allocated for contractual assessment work; including, asbestos and lead-based paint surveys and remediation planning. Assessments will be conducted in accordance with USEPA’s AAI Rule (ASTM D1527-13 – Phase I) and Ohio Voluntary Action Program protocols. **Outputs:** # of Phase I/Phase II Assessments, # of asbestos/lead paint surveys. **Outcomes:** # of assessed properties/acreage.

Task 4 – Staff Development– Two NcBC members will attend national/state brownfields conference (s) and relevant workshops to increase brownfields knowledge and network. Costs are budgeted for travel, fees and staff time. **Outputs:** # of conferences/meetings attended. **Outcomes:** Incorporation/use of gained knowledge and network into Program.

2(b)(ii) Budget Table (Table 4: NCBC Assessment Program FY15):

Hazardous Substances Assessment Budget					
Budget Categories	Task 1: Community Outreach/Identify Brownfields	Task 2: Grant Management /Oversight	Task 3: Phase I & II Assessments	Task 4: Staff Development	TOTAL
Personnel	\$4,800	\$6,200	-	-	\$11,000
Travel	\$200	\$100	-	-	\$300
Supplies	\$400	\$150	-	-	\$550
Contractual	\$1,000	-	\$370,000	-	\$371,000
Total Haz Sub	\$6,400	\$6,450	\$370,000	\$0	\$382,850

Budget Notes:

-**Personnel:** Costs include Cuyahoga County staff time for program coordination, consulting firm procurement, advisory committee meetings, contracting/managing firms, invoice reviews/payments and reporting.

-**Travel:** Tasks 1 & 2 include local travel to meetings and brownfields sites. Task 4 costs are for staff to attend national and state brownfield conferences.

-**Supplies:** Task 1 costs include public notification, printing/reproduction of outreach materials; Task 2 costs are for printing/reproduction for meetings, mail costs and office supplies.

-**Contractual:** Up to 10 AAI-compliant Phase I Assessments at an average cost of \$4,000 each; totaling \$40,000. Up to 11 VAP-compliant Phase II Assessments at an average cost of \$40,000 each; totaling \$440,000. \$90,000 is allowed for up to 3 Remedial Action Plans.

-No grant funds will be expended on Fringe Costs/Equipment

Petroleum Products Assessment Budget					
Budget Categories	Task 1: Community Outreach/Identify Brownfields	Task 2: Grant Management /Oversight	Task 3: Phase I & II Assessments	Task 4: Staff Development	TOTAL
Personnel	\$4,800	\$6,200	-	\$3,000	\$14,000
Travel	\$200	\$100	-	\$1,300	\$1,600
Supplies	\$400	\$150	-	-	\$550
Contractual	\$1,000	-	\$200,000	-	\$201,000
Total Petro	\$6,400	\$6,450	\$200,000	\$4,300	\$217,150

2(c) Ability to Leverage: USEPA assessment funds will provide much-needed money to quantify brownfield issues at potential redevelopment projects, which will position these projects for leveraging of additional funding. Coalition partners have a proven history of working together to layer their financing and apply to brownfield projects. For example, when a family-owned cheese manufacturer in a challenged neighborhood of Cleveland needed to expand its operations, the City and County came together to identify and assemble a 14acre parcel required and secure assessment, cleanup and redevelopment funding through a combination of grants and partially forgivable loans.

Table 5: NcBC Current Leverage Sources:

	Assessment	Cleanup	Redevelopment
City of Cleveland	\$300,000*	\$3,000,000*	\$766,800**
Cuyahoga County	\$28,341	\$1,000,000	-

*State of Ohio Clean Ohio Grant Program

**\$366,800 from Ohio Department of Transportation in funds and in-kind services

The Coalition is in a unique position to leverage additional funds. The associated letters for the following commitments can

be found in Appendix (5). The County has committed \$3 Million of Western Reserve Funds to assist eligible projects assessed with these grant funds with cleanup and redevelopment costs. Further, the County was awarded \$400,000 for its USEPA BRLF program, which will be committed to assisting eligible projects assessed with these grant funds. The City of Cleveland's Department of Economic Development has an established economic development program, the Vacant Property Initiative (VPI), which is specifically designed to overcome environmental and financial barriers to the full re-use of abandoned, idled or underutilized commercial and/or industrial properties. The City of Cleveland has also devoted a number of resources to brownfield assessment, remediation, and site redevelopment and has committed \$1,000,000 to assist with remediation and redevelopment of sites assessed by NcBC. CCBH will provide in-kind services with respect to completing the Health Impact Assessments; the NcBC anticipates this service to be valued at \$7,300 (salary and fringe). The Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority ("Port"), as a former member of this coalition is now a strong community supporter. The Port will continue its commitment to assist the Coalition with in-kind services to assist in identifying, reviewing, vetting and recommending project sites for assessment assistance.

The Opportunity Corridor project has secured the following assistance for the overall project: \$200,000 USEPA Brownfield Area-wide Project Planning Grant in 2010, as well as \$75,000 in Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) grant funding and \$29 million from the Ohio Department of Transportation, which will be used for transportation planning. Northeast Shores Development Corporation has secured \$88,000 in TLCI funding for the East185th Corridor.

3: Community Engagement and Partnerships

3(a)(i) Community Involvement Plan NcBC is working with specific groups of stakeholders, listed in Table 6, who have or will play a key role in identifying and prioritizing projects for redevelopment in all three target areas.

The Coalition has worked closely in partnership and intends to further involve our communities by following a strategy similar to the one utilized in our FY09 grant, which was:

1. **Identification of potential site** through community- wide application process.
2. **Notify local Stakeholders** (community leaders, residents, faith-based groups, business organizations and outreach groups) in the target area(s). These stakeholders have been essential in identifying sites and engaging citizen participation in discussions within the targeted areas. These stakeholders have committed to be involved throughout the implementation of the assessment grant.
3. **Initiate public meetings**: Our coalition members have communicated and engaged community stakeholders through public meetings regarding the three target project areas in our county. We expect to continue these communications upon award of the grant. Stakeholders will be requested to identify any sites or areas for assessment funding. The Coalition will meet monthly or as required to evaluate applications for assessment and review project progress. Stakeholders and residents will be encouraged to participate in these meetings. Cuyahoga County will work with the applicants to notify residents in the area of each project through their respective council members and community outreach networks. This will include town hall meetings, newsletters, websites and email lists to name a few.
4. **Report Findings and Follow-up**: Through our County Development website and the website/newsletter networks of our individual communities, progress reports and a final project report will be provided.

3(a)(ii) Communicating Progress: NcBC will develop and implement a Community Relations Action Plan, as detailed above and specific to this project, utilizing various communications channels to the citizens of our county, particularly those in our targeted project areas. NcBC believes this is the appropriate way to address the diverse community. The implementation of this plan will keep all members of the targeted communities involved in the assessments, planning, and remediation and redevelopment stages of the projects. The following communications channels will be employed:

Direct communication, via the website and direct outreach, will keep the development community aware of opportunities for funding. The NcBC has found that many developers and site selectors first seek assistance via the website. Other developers make direct inquiries to the City, First Suburbs communities or County for assessment assistance, while health concerns are communicated to the local boards of health.

Public Meetings: We have found in recent projects that local residents and small businesses often need a more active outreach and engagement effort. In order to ensure that these interests are adequately addressed, the NcBC will hold the public meetings and maintain regular updates to the local CDCs, neighborhood town hall meetings, business chamber meetings and environmental health advocacy groups in accordance with the Community Relations Action Plan to ensure that information can be disseminated readily to the public.

3(b)(i) Local/State/Tribal Environmental Authority *Environmental Oversight Agencies are key partners of the Coalition.*

1. NcBC has worked with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) (see letters in Appendix 4) since the 1990's both at the state (Columbus) and regional (Twinsburg) levels. The NcBC follows the State Voluntary Action Program (VAP) protocol. OEPA has been fully supportive of our brownfield investigation efforts and intend to continue their assistance with us as stated in their letter dated December 10, 2014. When projects move beyond the Phase I stage, the NcBC will request Technical Assistance from OEPA to guide sampling events. Technical Assistance allows OEPA to review the Remedial Action Plan and provide advice to avoid potential pitfalls. Through the TA Partnership, the NcBC will continue to leverage its relationship with OEPA to successfully remediate and redevelop brownfields. The City of Cleveland Department of Public Health, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and OEPA oversee air, water, and soil quality on a day-to-day basis. Both local agencies are delegated authorities over permitting and regulatory responsibilities in the community and regularly monitor the environmental health and welfare of the communities. Additionally, OEPA provides oversight, as well as providing emergency response. This hybrid regulatory partnership allows for day-to-day monitoring by local authorities.

2. NcBC routinely works with the Ohio BUSTR to determine eligibility on sites with petroleum contamination. To date, over 40% of our project sites have had petroleum issues. BUSTR has supported and assisted our efforts to investigate and remediate petroleum contaminated sites. The Ohio Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations fully supports our application and project plan as stated in their letter dated December 2, 2014.

3. Health Agencies in Ohio are overseen at a local level. In Cuyahoga County we have two such agencies which will play key roles in our Assessment Program projects.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health, whose jurisdiction covers 58 of our county communities, has been a coalition member since 2007. CCBH's public health initiatives closely align with NcBC objectives to provide clean affordable land for reuse while eliminating blight and

preserving/creating green space. This creates healthy economic and environmental benefits. CCBH played a major role in assessing public health criteria relevant to the community health and welfare of the local residents in the neighborhoods of the 34 project sites we assessed county-wide from 2009 to 2012.

Cleveland Department of Health, established in 1910, is responsible for increasing the quality of health for all Cleveland residents and workers by promoting better behavior, protecting the environment, preventing disease and making the city of Cleveland a health place to live, work and play. They work closely with the overall brownfield mission in Cuyahoga County and have partnered with our coalition on several projects to date.

3(b)(ii) Other Relevant Governmental Partnerships: The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has been an essential partner to the overall redevelopment of the design, financing and oversight of the Opportunity Corridor area. We anticipate utilizing their assistance in the East 185th Street Corridor process as well.

Along with our successful history of administering USEPA Brownfield grants, Cuyahoga County Department of Development administers the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) block grant funds on behalf of 51 of our urban communities. Currently 15 of our First Suburbs communities are eligible to receive block grant funding for eligible infrastructure projects in the target brownfield project site locations.

3(c) Partnerships with Community Organizations: NcBC members are experienced in community engagement. County and City council members, mayors, community and economic development interests in our 19 targeted communities have been informed of our application to resume our program. We have engaged the FSC to identify sites. Efforts to engage the public will continue through-out the grant period. NcBC will continue the outreach using economic development, environmental health and local governmental networks which represent the strength of our membership. Translators will be used in communities with large immigrant populations. Additional media outreach will be conducted through our local newspapers, mailings, community and governmental websites. Coalition members will present at regular community meetings in target areas and initiate meetings in areas where there are no current groups in place. Face to face engagement will occur through health visits at public clinics. Both of our Health organizations have outstanding public outreach programs we intend to utilize to initiating health and environmental awareness events that educate and respond to public concern for redevelopment sites.

3(c)(i) Table 6: Community Organizations Descriptions and Roles:

Organization	Description	Targeted Area	Role
Ohio Means Jobs Cleveland-Cuyahoga	Employer Engagement Agency of local Workforce Investment Board	All	Employment Assistance for any jobs created through redevelopment of brownfields; Community Outreach.
Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corp.	County Land Bank	All	Identify and Prioritize Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	Clean water service provider	All	Incorporate stormwater management features to redeveloped brownfields.
Opportunity Corridor Partnership	transit-oriented sustainable redevelopment	All	Community Investment; Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Reviewing applications.
Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc.	CDC - Central Neighborhood	Opportunity Corridor	Hold Public Meetings; Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Buckeye Shaker Square Development Corp.	CDC - Buckeye Neighborhood	Opportunity Corridor	Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Fairfax Renaissance Development Corp.	CDC - Fairfax Neighborhood	Opportunity Corridor	Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Slavic Village Development Corporation	CDC - Slavic Village Neighborhood	Opportunity Corridor	Hold Public Meetings; Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
NorthEast Shores Development Corporation	CDC - North Shores Collinwood Neighborhood	E. 185th Street Corridor	Hold Public Meetings; Review Grant Applications; Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Community Improvement Corporation of Euclid	CDC - City of Euclid	E. 185th Street Corridor	Community Outreach, securing sites and redevelopment funding opportunities.
Euclid Chamber of Commerce	Business Attraction/Growth	E. 185th Street Corridor	Community Outreach, Hold Public Meetings.
Rocky River Watershed Council		First Suburbs	Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Parma Area Chamber of Commerce	Business Attraction/Growth	First Suburbs	Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.
Heights-Hillcrest Regional Chamber of Commerce	Business Attraction/Growth	First Suburbs	Identify Redevelopment Parcels; Community Outreach.

3(c)(ii) Letters of Commitment: Table 6 lists the contributing community organizations. Their commitment letters are included in Appendix 6.

4: Project Benefits

4(a)(i) Health and Welfare Benefits *for the residents impacted by brownfields in the targeted communities:* Remediation of brownfields will reduce exposure to contaminants and emissions that are linked to negative health effects such as the high asthma, diabetes, and obesity rates identified in Table 2 for the Cleveland target areas. This assessment project will identify areas with high levels of contaminants and enable the NcBC to marshal resources to reduce exposure through remediation and redevelopment. The health monitoring efforts of the Coalition will facilitate an education effort to ensure that community partners and residents are aware of these sites and to take steps to avoid exposure. Several of our former projects were redeveloped as community parks and for Green Infrastructure sites on behalf of the communities. The Master Redevelopment Plan for the Opportunity Corridor Project includes remediation of properties for use as greenspace¹³, providing safe places for children to play. Cleaner air and safer neighborhoods will lead to increased exercise by all residents, which will improve the overall health and welfare. We expect to see results such as increased life expectancy and decreases in the rates of asthma, diabetes and obesity in all three of our targeted areas. We will also track properties remediated and redeveloped in a sustainable way. For example, one of the priorities in the Opportunity Corridor area is the Urban Agriculture Innovation Zone, which is a site where neighborhood residents can grow their own produce. Formerly a brownfield, this site has been successfully reused as a food production site, which addresses the lack of available fresh produce in the area and improves health outcomes of local residents.

4(a)(ii) Environmental Benefits: *The assessment project will have significant benefits for the environment.* We expect that the majority of sites assessed under the program will move forward into remediation and redevelopment, eliminating hazardous substances and petroleum contamination from the environment. Additionally, redevelopment along the two Cleveland corridors will include partnerships with Northeast Ohio Sewer District to improve stormwater infrastructure. NEORSD has two green infrastructure investments planned in the area and both sites have had assessments funded through the County. These types of projects will significantly reduce stormwater run-off and protect our natural resources while providing safe greenspaces for residents to enjoy.

4(b)(i) Planning, Policies, Ordinances or Other Tools: *The City of Cleveland has a robust planning and development effort that encourages sustainable redevelopment.* All project sites redeveloped in the Opportunity Corridor and the Cleveland side of the East 185th Corridor must comply with these requirements. New development is subject to Design Review at the neighborhood level prior to review by the Cleveland City Planning Commission to ensure that proposed development is sustainable and appropriate. Redevelopment of brownfields sites will reactivate existing infrastructure in the urban core, a vastly more environmentally friendly option than construction of new infrastructure in exurban locations. The County will require that assessment applicants demonstrate that projects meet certain sustainability goals. Redevelopment of properties assembled by the City will be rigorously reviewed for sustainable development. The NcBC takes seriously the responsibility to ensure that environmental justice is considered at all times.

¹³City of Cleveland Planning Commission (<http://planning.city.cleveland.oh.us/oppCorridor.html>)

4(b)(ii) Integrating Equitable Development or Livability Principles

In 2010, a \$4.25M Sustainable Communities Planning HUD-EPA-DOT grant was awarded to our region. Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), was lead applicant fiscal agent for this Grant, while Cuyahoga County was a core partner in the development, application and implementation of this twelve county regional planning process. From this award the Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) was established. NEOSCC established goals and created programs. The goals of the project were to *Develop* a plan to strengthen our region, *Preserve* existing infrastructure, *Build* sustainable transportation, *Support* economic development and *Enhance* quality of life¹⁴. NcBC has incorporated the principles of NEOSCC's Goals¹⁵ into our programs. Our brownfield redevelopment programs address these goals by incorporating them into redevelopment projects to enhance the quality of life and create sustainable future for everyone who lives, works and plays in Cuyahoga County. For example our brownfield loan programs offer reductions on repayment amounts for projects that create living wage or above jobs and incorporate utilize green, sustainable deconstruction and remediation methods to mitigate environmental conditions and use sustainable eco-friendly building materials in their redevelopment. Through this funding, NcBC will be able to continue to improve the quality of life in these target areas by helping non-profit and governmental entities to identify and assess sites that will create greenspace, parks, playgrounds, urban gardens and improve access to healthy, affordable food¹⁶.

4(c)(i) Economic Benefits or Non-Economic Benefits: *The NcBC believes the Assessment Project will bring significant economic benefits to all target areas.* While our First Suburbs have not had formal planning studies conducted on their target areas, they are confident that this funding will provide much needed assessment and brownfield inventory activities that will assist with their community's master plan. Fortunately the Opportunity Corridor area has been the beneficiary of an Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the Ohio Department of Transportation. This report indicated that the infrastructure investment project will create more than 1,100 direct permanent jobs, nearly 1,600 direct temporary jobs, and \$548 million in direct payroll, and \$2.2 billion in direct production output. These figures include 546 permanent jobs and 461 temporary jobs created through the industrial and warehousing operations in the central and western sections of the targeted community. In addition, the estimated tax revenue generated by local municipalities and the State of Ohio from the economic impact of the project total \$1.7 million, with an additional \$1.7 million in federal tax dollars generated.

The NcBC has insured that it invests in companies that further economic opportunities and create sustainable neighborhoods beyond brownfield cleanup. Utilizing our FY09 grant funds, NcBC assessed three projects in the Opportunity Corridor Area (Orlando Baking, Miceli Dairy, and Green City Growers)¹⁷. These projects combined, created/retained over 500 living wage jobs and are just a few examples of NcBC's ability to leverage financing and secure long-term benefits to the entire community.

4(c)(ii) Partnerships with Workforce Development Programs: *NcBC partners will further local hiring and procurement.* The Coalition's contracts will have local subcontracting goals in

¹⁴ See Appendix 8 for 2014 NOACA Annual Report also: (<http://www.noaca.org/modules/>)

¹⁵ <http://noaca.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=6177>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Almost 50% of the Miceli Dairy workforce is residents of Cleveland and over 50% are minorities. Green City Growers workforce is approximately 80% Cleveland residents and 80% minorities. Assessment funding helped leverage over \$45 million in other funding for these projects. The Miceli Dairy redevelopment includes a bio digester for converting food waste to energy, reducing its energy footprint and eliminating waste from landfills.

accordance with applicable Federal and local regulations. Projects funded by the City of Cleveland may involve a Community Benefits Agreement, which identifies minority, female, and local hiring and sustainable development goals. The Coalition encourages local residents to participate in employment opportunities through brownfield redevelopment. Coalition members regularly visit local high schools and colleges to introduce career opportunities in brownfield redevelopment, including the City of Cleveland's partnership with Cleveland State University to fund a class for Cleveland high school students. Where applicable, county loan applicants for remediation and redevelopment follow-on funding work with our Workforce Development (WD) agency - a collaborative workforce system of the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County that helps local employers meet their human capital needs and assists job seekers to find success. The purpose of WD is to provide resources and information through the Ohio Means Jobs-Cleveland system to assist area businesses with their hiring and training needs in order to stay competitive in today's environment and to provide residents of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County with the tools necessary for a competitive and successful job search¹⁸. The WD programs and services include education, occupational training, job match and search assistance and employment-related youth programs funded through the Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA).

5: Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

5(a) Programmatic Capability: Cuyahoga County, as lead applicant, has the organizational structure and capacity to ensure timely and successful tracking and expenditure of all funds, as well as completion of all technical, administrative, and financial requirements of the grant. The County has successfully managed and completed multiple federal grant funded programs (USEPA, HUD, DOE, DOL). The oversight is anchored by the program manager, Janise Bayne. She has successfully managed three previous USEPA assessment grants from beginning through successful closeout. Amongst the NcBC members and County staff, there is over 54 years of experience in managing federal funds and delivering effective program outcomes. Key staff includes individuals with direct USEPA funding experience, brownfield experience, and redevelopment experience. Ms. Bayne will work in concert with the other NcBC members to identify eligible projects, project budgets, timelines and expected outcomes. Her development of cost-tracking systems for budgets and her intimate knowledge of the environmental assessment process ensure program funds will be deployed effectively. Ms. Bayne has an MBA and is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional. She is a recognized leader in grant administration and has provided technical assistance to other grant recipients, at EPA's request. Lastly, Cuyahoga County can procure services if additional technical expertise is required. The county will procure Ohio Certified Professionals to conduct assessments through a Request for Proposals process; all contracts issued under this grant will have firm timelines for project completion. Cuyahoga County tracks the following outcomes: total sites, acreage, and assessment type, clean up, redevelopment, end use, and job creation/retention and project cost. Cuyahoga County would continue to input all project data into the USEPA ACRES database on a timely basis. Based on the need of this targeted area, Cuyahoga County anticipates expending the \$600,000 grant within the three-year grant period on 10 to 24 sites, with a priority on those requiring Phase IIs.

¹⁸ <http://www.employmentconnection.us/en-US/About-Us.aspx>

5(b) Audit Findings: Cuyahoga County has had no adverse findings from audits conducted under OMB Circular A-133 and has had no "high risk" terms and conditions added to federal grants under agency regulations implementing OMB Circular A-102.

5(c) Past Performance and Accomplishments

5(c)(i) Compliance with grant requirements: For over a decade, Cuyahoga County has had a strong track record of managing USEPA assessment funds. With USEPA and other funding, the county has assessed 97 sites for a total of 493 acres. A key to the County's success was to ensure the assessment projects *conformed to the Work Plan*, which enabled the County to meet the schedule and terms and conditions of its Cooperative Agreement with USEPA. Further, *the majority of our assessment sites* have successfully secured additional public and private monies for further assessment, asbestos abatement, demolition, and environmental remediation. Approximately one-third are slated to complete the Ohio EPA's No Further Action process. These sites have been redeveloped for reuse as expansion sites for small manufacturing companies, start-up bio tech, health care services, permanent supportive housing, community parks, and playgrounds throughout 23 of our 59 municipalities in Cuyahoga County.

Table 7: County Outputs of EPA Assessment Grants:

Tasks	Expected Outputs			Actual Outputs				Results
	FY03	FY08	FY09	FY03	FY08	FY09	TOTAL	
Phase I Projects	5-15	5-10	9-20	18	20	30	68	Exceed Goal
Phase II Projects	6-10	6-10	6-10	32	10	18	60	Exceed Goal
Asbestos Surveys	Varies	Varies	Varies	2	5	5	12	Positive
BUSTR* Projects	Varies	Varies	Varies	8	1	3	12	Positive
Acres Assessed	50-75	14-20	25-50	208	54	162	424	Exceed Goal
Total Tasks	15-30	10-15	15-25	41	22	34	97	Exceed Goal

Furthermore, we have met or exceeded goals in all grants, and produced demonstrable economic development and quality of life outcomes for our communities, which is summarized in our quarterly reports to USEPA and in ACRE reporting system.

2. Accomplishments: Cuyahoga County has received nine USEPA Brownfield RLF grant awards, which have been organized as three CAs totaling \$5.5 million. All of these funds have been committed and/or expended on 18 projects.

Table 8: Economic Benefits of former EPA Assessment Grants

Economic Benefits Achieved	FY03	FY08	FY09	TOTAL USEPA
Jobs Created	291	727	2,120	3,138
Jobs Retained	2,216	1,137	751	4,104
Redevelopment Funds Leveraged	\$94,306,127	\$16,715,000	\$94,227,797	\$205,248,924

Table 8 summarizes activities completed with USEPA assessment funding to date, which clearly demonstrates the County's ability to set and exceed outcomes for brownfield assessment grants. The assessments addressed a variety of

community needs with the majority of funding (75-95%) concentrated within disempowered, economically disadvantaged neighborhoods in Cleveland. These assessments were conducted on schedule, in accordance with the EPA-approved Work Plans. The County has completed and submitted all annual and quarterly reports in a timely manner on all our cooperative agreements. In addition, the County has been entering and updating all the information regarding our projects since January 2007 into the USEPA's ACRES and BIT systems on a regular basis.

Appendix 1: Threshold Criteria

III.C Threshold Criteria for Assessment Grants

III.C.1 Applicant Eligibility:

The Coalition Members of Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (NcBC) are: Cuyahoga County through the Department of Development (the “County”), the City of Cleveland through the Department of Economic Development (the “City”), Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium (the “FSC”), and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (“CCBH”).

Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland are General Purpose Units of Local Government.

The Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, as an Ohio Council of Governments since 1996, is an eligible applicant for this Coalition assessment grant as stated in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167: Regional Council of Governments.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health is an eligible member to apply for this Coalition assessment grant as legislated by the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3709, Health Districts.

Appendix 2 contains membership commitment and eligibility documentation for our Northcoast Brownfield Coalition members.

III.C .2 Letters from the State or Tribal Environmental Authority:

Appendix 4 contains support letters for our 2015 Coalition Assessment Grant Proposal from:

1. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) dated December 10, 2014.
2. The Ohio State Fire Marshal’s Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) dated December 2, 2014.

III.C.3 Community Involvement:

The Coalition Members, listed above, along with the Community Organizations whose letters are in **Appendix 5** intend to involve community stakeholders in the targeted project areas throughout the entire grant project period. Upon award of the grant, we will initially engage community stakeholders through a series of public meeting located in the communities of the targeted project sites. These meeting will introduce the coalition members; describe the grant award along with outlining Coalition’s mission to assist in brownfield investigations that will ultimately promote sustainable redevelopment meeting the Health, Welfare and Environmental safety needs of the people who Live, Work and Play in the specific target areas. We will also review the project site areas, potential redevelopment/ zoning along with educating the attendees on our grant, its purpose and uses. We will also solicit the audience to identify any sites or areas which they would like the Coalition to focus assessment funding efforts. These requests will be made prior to, during, and after this meeting through-out the grant period.

In addition to our current coalition members listed above, Cuyahoga County has an outstanding number of Community Development Organizations who have been "key" players in reaching out to both residential and business owners in their neighborhoods to inform them of the environmental assessment, clean-up and redevelopment projects we have conducted since 2004. contributing their time, and resources to have meetings in the organizations facilities in the areas of our targeted project areas.

These agencies listed in table 5 (in section 3 of proposal) have agreed to commit resources (meeting times and facilities, publication assistance along with assistance securing follow-up funding sources for each project. Their commitments detailed in their support letters (*Attachment E*) include: assisting the project goals through community outreach (meeting notifications, meeting locations, and communications); community investment; and overseeing the integration of health and sustainable redevelopment principles into the overall redevelopment of the Opportunity Corridor Area; the East 185th Corridor and the targeted redevelopment sites listed in **table 2 (section of the narrative.**

**Appendix 2:Northcoast Brownfield Coalition Members
Eligibility Letters**



Built by Industry. Inspired by Innovation.

December 17, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County
Cuyahoga County Headquarters
2079 East Ninth St., 7th Floor
Cleveland OH 44115

RE: Northcoast Brownfield Coalition

Dear Director Benders:

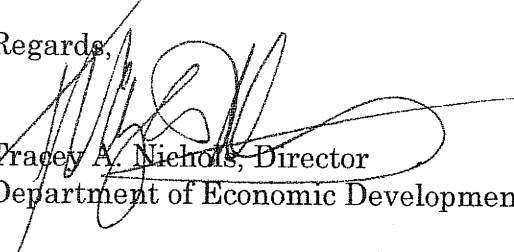
The City of Cleveland is a founding member of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition and has been pleased to support the Coalition's efforts to assess and remediate brownfield throughout Cuyahoga County and the City of Cleveland.

On November 25, 2013, Cleveland City Council passed Ordinance No. 1546-13, authorizing the renewal of the City of Cleveland's membership in the Coalition. I am pleased to continue to participate in this valuable endeavor.

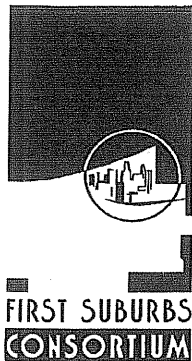
The City of Cleveland is a municipal corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio and is thus a local government as that term is defined in 40 CFR 31.3. Accordingly, the City is an eligible applicant as a General Purpose Unit of Local Government as required by Section III.A. of the Assessment Grant RFP.

The City of Cleveland confirms its continued membership in the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition and looks forward to the successful implementation of the grant.

Regards,



Tracey A. Nichols, Director
Department of Economic Development



COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

December 12, 2014

Mr. Larry Benders
Director, Department of Development
2079 E. 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Member Municipalities:

Bedford
Bedford Heights
Berea
Brook Park
Brooklyn
Brooklyn Heights
Cleveland Heights
East Cleveland
Euclid
Fairview Park
Garfield Heights
Lakewood
Maple Heights
Parma
Parma Heights
Shaker Heights
South Euclid
University Heights
Warrensville Heights

Dear Director Benders,

The Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, as an original member of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (NcBC) since 2004, enthusiastically commits to being an active member of this coalition. Our member communities have suffered great population losses compounded by the disappearance of a strong manufacturing base that was once a vibrant part of our 18- Member communities. Many of these companies either went out of business during the recent "Great recession" or relocated out of Ohio. As a result our communities, which were once an "inner ring" expansion to the county Seat, Cleveland, are left with vacant buildings which had been former manufacturing, industrial and commercial operations along with the associated retail such as former gas stations, automotive dealerships and small parts producer buildings.

First Suburbs, as an Ohio Council of governments since 1996, representing over 37% of Cuyahoga County's population, is an eligible applicant for this FY2015, as stated in Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 167: Regional Councils of Governments.

While our FSC membership is strong, we lack the resources and capacity to apply and manage a funding source to assist in the procurement and management of funding for assessment, inventorying, remedial planning, clean-up and redevelopment of these sites. Therefore, we have asked Cuyahoga County Department of Development, who has successfully administered USEPA funded assessment and Revolving Loan Fund grants since 2004, to assist us in applying for assessment funds for 27 identified target sites, noted in this proposal, located through-out our First Suburbs Communities consisting of 22 buildings, 582,800 sq. feet of vacant buildings and 57.34 acres of former commercial industrial used sites.

The Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium commits to working with our communities, and their associated Residential Block Groups, Chambers of Commerce, and Development Corporations in communicating the information on eligible project sites that would be assessed, and ultimately redeveloped, to our communities.

While FSC has been fortunate that NcBC was able to environmentally assessed 28 sites, totaling 1,578 acres, through USEPA FY 06, 08 and 09 assessment grants. These

activities helped "jumpstart" the redevelopment of a former Oldsmobile Dealership into a community center in Shaker Heights along with the assessment of a former 1930's vintage retail strip center into student housing services in South Euclid at Cedar Center North, bringing back vitality to these small communities.

The target projects for consideration in this FY15 grant proposal is essential to the health and welfare of our residents. Many of these sites have been vacant for over 10 years. The unknown levels of contaminants at these sites which are closely situated in urban residential areas.

If awarded, we will continue our commitment to providing site identification, securing access and procuring redevelopment opportunities at these and other potential brownfield sites throughout our "Inner-Ring" Communities Consortium.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at 216-291-2854 or jkuzma@clvhts.com.

Thank-you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Kuzma". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennifer Kuzma
Director
Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

December 8, 2014

Mr. Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters
2079 East 9th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Director Benders:

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health hereby affirms our commitment and participation in the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition. The CCBH is an eligible applicant for this assessment grant as legislated by the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3709; Health Districts.

The unique partnership with the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County and the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium positions citizens, businesses and industry to best gain in an environmentally sound manner by building on our past strengths.

We will continue contributions of public health expertise, addressing the very real issues of risk exposure and risk communication necessary in the evolution of former brownfield sites into viable productive properties. Clear recognition on the part of public health agencies and our respective partnerships with planning and development agencies enable metropolitan Cuyahoga County to efficiently and protectively revitalize for future sustainable growth.

We appreciate the opportunity to work directly as a key component of the brownfield coalition. Environmental public health initiatives align closely with coalition objectives of providing clean affordable land for reuse while eliminating blight and preserving and creating green space, which in turn, creates economic and environmental benefits.

Sincerely,



Rick Novickis, R.S., M.P.H.
Director
Environmental Public Health

Appendix 3: Other Factors Checklist

Appendix 3 Assessment Other Factors Checklist

Name of Applicant: _____

Cuyahoga County on behalf of Northcoast Brownfield Coalition

Please identify (with an **X**) which, if any of the below items apply to your community or your project as described in your proposal. To be considered for an Other Factor, you must include the page number where each applicable factor is discussed in your proposal. EPA will verify these disclosures prior to selection and may consider this information during the selection process. If this information is not clearly discussed in your narrative proposal or in any other attachments, it will not be considered during the selection process.

Other Factor	Page #
Community population is 10,000 or less.	
Federally recognized Indian tribe.	
United States territory.	
Applicant will assist a Tribe or territory.	
Targeted brownfield sites are impacted by mine-scarred land.	
Targeted brownfield sites are contaminated with controlled substances.	
Recent natural disaster(s) (2006 or later) occurred within community, causing significant community economic and environmental distress.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project is primarily focusing on Phase II assessments.	8
Applicant demonstrates firm leveraging commitments for facilitating brownfield project completion by identifying amounts and contributors of funding in the proposal and have included documentation.	
Community experienced manufacturing plant/power plant closure(s) (2008 or later) tied to the targeted brownfield sites or project area, including communities experiencing auto plant/power plant closures due to bankruptcy or economic disruptions.	
Recent (2008 or later) significant economic disruption (<u>unrelated</u> to a natural disaster or manufacturing/auto plant/power plant closure) has occurred within community, resulting in a significant percentage loss of community jobs and tax base.	
Applicant is one of the 12 recipients, or a core partner/implementation strategy party, of a "manufacturing community" designation provided by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP). To be considered, applicants must clearly demonstrate in the proposal the nexus between their IMCP designation and the Brownfield activities. Additionally, applicants must attach documentation which demonstrate either designation as one of the 12 recipients, or relevant pages from a recipient's IMCP proposal which lists/describes the core partners and implementation strategy parties. A core partner/implementation strategy party is a local partner organization/jurisdiction that will carry out the proposed strategy, as demonstrated in letters of commitment or memoranda of understanding which documents their contributions, roles, and responsibilities to the partnership. EDA may provide to	

	EPA a list of the core partners/implementation strategy parties for each of the 12 "manufacturing community" designees, which EPA would use to verify this other factor.	
	Applicant will serve an area designated as a federal, state, or local Empowerment Zone or Renewal Community. To be considered, applicant must attach documentation which demonstrates this current designation.	
	Applicant is a recipient or a core partner of HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC) grant funding or technical assistance that is directly tied to the proposed Brownfields project, and can demonstrate that funding from a PSC grant/technical assistance has or will benefit the project area. Examples of PSC grant or technical assistance include a HUD Regional Planning or Challenge grant, DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), or EPA Smart Growth Implementation or Building Blocks Assistance, etc. To be considered, applicant must attach documentation.	
	Applicant is a HUD Promise Zone community. To be considered, applicant must attach documentation.	
X	Applicant is a recipient of an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.	2

Appendix 4: State Environmental Authority Letters



John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

December 10, 2014

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Brownfields/NPL Reuse Section
ATTN: Brad Bradley and Romona Smith
77 West Jackson Blvd., Mail Code SM-7J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

RE: Northcoast Brownfield Coalition Community Wide Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Bradley and Ms. Smith:

I am pleased to offer Ohio EPA's support for the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition's Community Wide Assessment Grant Proposal. The Coalition, consisting of Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, is applying for a community wide assessment grant totaling \$600,000. We have worked with Ohio's brownfields in the past and hope to be able to provide support to the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition under the Assessment, Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund Grant program established by the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act (P.L. 107-118).

The funding the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition is requesting under their community wide assessment grant proposal would be used to complete Phase I and Phase II Environmental Assessments and Remedial Action Plans, perform community outreach, identify brownfields, and for grant management oversight activities. If awarded, this funding would directly benefit residents disproportionately impacted by brownfields in Cuyahoga County. Environmental assessments would not only help businesses reuse brownfields, but also help educate community members about the conditions of nearby vacant buildings and industrial properties.

We look forward to working with the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition and U.S. EPA on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-644-2285.

Sincerely,

Amy Yersavich, Manager
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Site Assistance and Brownfield Revitalization

cc: Janise Bayne, Cuyahoga County Department of Development
Rod Beals, Ohio EPA, DERR/NEDO
Nancy Zikmanis, Ohio EPA, DERR/NEDO



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal
John R. Kasich, Governor
David Goodman, Director

December 2, 2014

Mr. Joe Dufficy
U.S. EPA Brownfield Contact, Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Mail Code SM-7J
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Subject: Letter of Support/Commitment for the Northeast Brownfield Coalition's U.S. EPA
Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Dufficy:

This letter acknowledges that the Northeast Brownfield Coalition notified the Office of the Fire Marshal, Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) the Northeast Brownfield Coalition's grant request to U.S. EPA for \$600,000 grant to provide assessment for a community-wide brownfield assessment for petroleum and hazardous substance wastes. The Northeast Brownfield Coalition is comprised of Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium. The grant will be used for the assessment of vacant, abandoned or otherwise underutilized properties located within Cuyahoga County. The Coalition anticipates that the majority of the funds will be spent within the City of Cleveland, with a specific concentration on the Opportunity Corridor, which was the subject of a USEPA Brownfield Areawide Planning Grant.

The City of Cleveland's poverty percentage is nearly twice the national average and, in 2010, was identified as the third poorest city in the United States. Coupled with poverty, the population of the City has hit a 100 year low. The City and County are faced with a growing number of abandoned properties that exacerbate the vicious cycle of economic decline. The Coalition intends to use a large portion of the grant to conduct Phase I and Phase II Assessments in the Opportunity Corridor within the City of Cleveland or the East 185th Corridor, which connects the Cleveland with the City of Euclid. Six of the communities represented by the Coalition have also requested assessments for 29 properties within the cities of Bedford Heights, Berea, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Fairview Park, South Euclid and University Heights. The impact of brownfields in Cuyahoga County predominantly affects the urban core and inner-ring suburbs, which historically are the industrial areas. Environmental assessment conducted under the grant could help businesses reuse brownfields, but also educates community members about the conditions of nearby vacant buildings and industrial properties.

Page 2
December 2, 2014
U.S. EPA, Region 5

I am pleased to offer BUSTR's support for the Northeast Brownfield Coalition Brownfield Assessment Grant proposal. We look forward to working with Cuyahoga County, the City of Cleveland, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium and the U.S.EPA on this project.

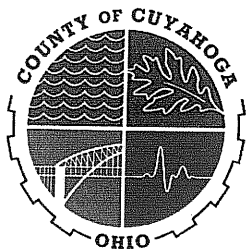
Sincerely,



Verne A. Ord
Assistant Chief – BUSTR
Division of State Fire Marshal
Ohio Department of Commerce

xc: Site File
Larry Bender, Cuyahoga County Department of Development

Appendix 5: Committed Leveraged Resources



November 14, 2014

Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Cuyahoga County Western Reserve Fund

Dear Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell:

Cuyahoga County, as lead applicant for the coalition, is interested in furthering the efforts of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition. County Executive, Edward FitzGerald and our County Council are fully committed to the economic growth and vitality of our residents.

To that end, they created the \$100 million Western Reserve Fund, a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to deliver jobs and prosperity to Greater Cleveland. The Western Reserve Fund is structured as a revolving loan fund that provides gap financing toward job-creating and job-retaining projects in the county. Coordinated with the efforts of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition, the Western Reserve Fund is collaborative and inclusive, binding regional assets together to augment strengths, repair weaknesses and embrace economically isolated populations.

Thus, if awarded this greatly needed \$600,000 in Brownfield assessment funding, Executive FitzGerald has authorized the County Department of Development to set aside up to \$3 million, from the County's \$100 million Western Reserve Fund, to assist with the cleanup and redevelopment of eligible properties assessed with FY15 Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant award funds.

Sincerely,

Larry Benders
Director, Cuyahoga County Department of Development



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

AUG 14 2014

Mr. Larry Benders, Director
Cuyahoga County Department of Development
Reserve Square, 1st Floor
1701 E 12th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Mr. Benders:

On behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I am pleased to confirm that the Cuyahoga County Department of Development has been selected to receive supplemental funding in the amount of \$200,000 in hazardous substances funding and \$200,000 in petroleum funding for additional capitalization of its Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund grant.

We are pleased to see the progress the Cuyahoga County Department of Development has made and wish you continued success. Karla Auker of EPA Region 5 will be working closely with you to amend your cooperative agreement to reflect this supplemental award. Ms. Auker can be reached by telephone at (440) 250-1741 should you have questions regarding this award.

We look forward to continuing our cooperative work with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development and applaud your successes in promoting brownfields cleanups and community revitalization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David R. Lloyd".

David R. Lloyd, Director
Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization



Built by Industry. Inspired by Innovation.

December 17, 2014

Ms. Edie Findeis Cromwell
Environmental Management Support, Inc.
8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**RE: Northcoast Brownfield Coalition –
City of Cleveland Leveraging Investment**

Dear Ms. Cromwell:

The City of Cleveland is an active participant in furthering the efforts of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition. The City's Opportunity Corridor Area-Wide Plan, funded by a USEPA Pilot Grant, is the basis for the proposed assessment project. The NBC's proposed assessment project will be a key element of the first stage of the implementation of the Area-wide Plan. In order to take projects from planning through assessment, remediation, and redevelopment, the City of Cleveland has several resources, including the financial resources of the Department of Economic Development and partnerships in outreach and monitoring with the Department of Public Health.

The City's Vacant Property Initiative program provides partially forgivable loans of up to \$720,000, specifically designed to overcome barriers in the full reuse of abandoned or underutilized commercial and industrial properties in Cleveland. Additionally, the City has recently closed on a \$5 Million Demolition Loan fund from the State of Ohio, providing funds for demolition and asbestos abatement of abandoned structures in target areas of the City. Both these resources are designed to eliminate environmental hazards and obsolete buildings and return brownfield sites into productive use.

Further, the City's Industrial Commercial Land Bank provides a resource to accept vacant, tax-delinquent and abandoned properties into the City's ownership. These properties are then remediated and marketed for use. Over 100 acres are currently on the market as a result of the ICLB. Proceeds of sale are recycled into remediation and redevelopment of future projects. Several of the proposed development areas may be processed through the ICLB.

In order to further leverage USEPA's investment in this project, the City of Cleveland will commit \$1,000,000 to eligible projects in the Opportunity Corridor area, subject to underwriting and appropriation. The City believes strongly in the redevelopment of this area and is prepared to make the significant investments necessary to ensure that these projects are a success.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracey A. Nichols".

Tracey A. Nichols, Director
Department of Economic Development

CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

December 10, 2014

Mr. Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County Administrative Headquarters
2079 East 9th St.
Cleveland, OH 44115

Dear Director Benders:

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) enthusiastically supports the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition, with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development as lead agency, in their submission of a U.S.EPA assessment grant. This application will help further our organizations' goal of promoting the health of residents of Cuyahoga County. The Cuyahoga County Department of Development has the knowledge and brownfield program experience needed to successfully administer U.S. EPA grants.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health has been working since 1919 to prevent disease and injury, promote positive health outcomes and provide critical health services to improve the health status of the community. Our agency shares a vision with the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition that supports the brownfield efforts as stated within the grant application.

If awarded, we are prepared to commit to connecting health impacts with redevelopment. This will be accomplished by tracking community and environmental health conditions through GIS mapping of site features, health data, and select social and economic characteristics. This additional information will allow the CCBH to further expand and develop the assessment site database which was developed for the FY2009 U.S. EPA assessment grant. In addition our agency will also help develop a multi-faceted educational program aimed at educating the public regarding brownfield sites and the subsequent redevelopment of these properties.

This is an excellent opportunity to foster the needed regional cooperation. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health fully supports the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition assessment grant application. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (216)201-2000 extension 1200 or via email at rnovickis@ccbh.net.

Sincerely,



Rick Novickis, RS, MPH
Director
Environmental Public Health



January 14, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Reserve Square
1701 E. 12th Street, 1st Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Director Benders:

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority ("The Port") is in full support of the North Coast Brownfield Coalition Assessment Grant Application. Since 1993, the Port, as a leading catalyst for economic development and job creation in our region, has strategically provided cost-effective development finance programs for developers, companies, municipalities and nonprofit agencies. The Port is well equipped for this critical role, with the expertise and statutory powers to be both resourceful and civic-minded.

The Port has financial capabilities to assist "qualifying" brownfield redevelopment projects that will be identified through the \$600,000 Area Wide Assessment funds along with leveraging investments made in both the USEPA funded Opportunity Corridor Area-Wide Planning and the State of Ohio Department of Transportation grants. In an effort to provide support, the Port is willing to deploy our development financing capabilities in this project area to further the redevelopment of the Opportunity Corridor. To date the Port has financed 8 projects issuing bonds totaling over \$372.5 million for total project investments of \$739.3 million in close proximity to the Opportunity Corridor area, and more specifically in the University Circle and Midtown neighborhoods in Cleveland.

We support the Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant application and the positive impact it will bring to our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William D. Friedman", written in a cursive style.

William D. Friedman
President & Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 6: Letters of Commitment from Community Organizations

**A Collaborative
Workforce
Development
System**



**Cleveland -
Cuyahoga County**

December 16, 2014

Cleveland/Cuyahoga
County Workforce
Investment
Board

Cleveland
Metropolitan
School District

Cleveland Job Corps

Council for Economic
Opportunities of
Greater Cleveland

Cuyahoga
Community College

Cuyahoga County
Job and Family
Services

Cuyahoga
Metropolitan
Housing Authority

Mature Services

Ohio Department of
Job and Family
Services

Opportunities for
Ohioans
with Disabilities

United Labor Agency

Veterans Affairs

Mr. Larry Benders, Director
Cuyahoga County
Department of Development
2079 E. 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Benders:

OhioMeansJobs[Cleveland-Cuyahoga County (OMJ)CC] is the collaborative workforce system of the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, Ohio. We are the primary placement and employer engagement agency of the City of Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board, and we serve clients and employers across a broad range of industries in our community. We make resources and information available to assist area businesses with hiring and training needs and provide residents of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County with the tools necessary for a competitive and successful job search.

We have an agreement with Cuyahoga County Department of Development to offer assistance to remediation loan recipients of Federal/State or County loan funds to procure qualified personnel for the jobs that will be created. OMJ)CC provides programs and services to community residents such as:

- Employment Assistance for Adult and Dislocated Workers
- Employment Assistance for Youth, Adults, Seniors, and Veterans
- Occupational Job Training Opportunities
- Employer Recruitment
- Specialized Job Match and Job Search Assistance
- Literacy Services
- Re-entry Resources/Referrals

We fully support the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition application for Cuyahoga County's application for \$600,000 in EPA Brownfields Assessment targeted for Cleveland and the inner ring suburbs. And we commit to continue assist.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (216) 664-3700.

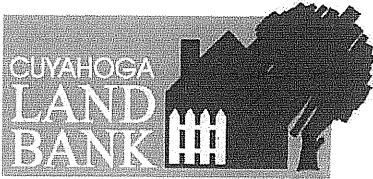
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace A. Kilbane".

Grace A. Kilbane, Executive Director
Cleveland/Cuyahoga County
Workforce Investment Board

GAK:dlt

1020 Bolivar Road • Cleveland, OH • 44115 • 216.664.4673 • Fax: 216.443.5950
11699 Brookpark Road • Parma, OH • 44130 • 216.898.1366 • Fax: 216.898.1497
ohiomeansjobs.com/cuyahoga



Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corp.

323 W. Lakeside Avenue, Suite 160
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Tel (216) 698-8853 Fax (216) 698-8972

December 4, 2014

Mr. Larry Benders
Director, Department of Development
2079 E. 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Director Benders,

The Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation (CCLRC) commits to working with the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition to assess, cleanup and reuse brownfield sites in Cuyahoga County, and particularly in the First Suburbs. Further, the Landbank will assist with identifying and prioritizing projects for assessment, and outreach with the communities.

Specifically, the Landbank will maintain its role as a separate non-profit, government-purposed entity tasked to:

1. Strategically acquire blighted properties
2. Return properties to productive use through
 - a. Rehabilitation
 - b. Sale to new private owners
 - c. Demolition
 - d. Preparation for economic development
 - e. Creative reuse such as gardening, greenspace, stormwater management, or other innovative and/or ecological uses
3. Increase property values through these efforts
4. Support community goals through collaborations with Cuyahoga's individual communities, governments, lenders, and individual property owners
5. Improve the quality of life for Cuyahoga County's residents through its efforts

We strongly support the Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant application and the many positive outcomes it will bring to the County.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Stephens, Director
Acquisition, Disposition and Development



December 11, 2014

Mr. Larry Bender
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County Department of Development
2079 East Ninth Street 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Re: Support for Northcoast Brownfield Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant Application

Dear Mr. Bender,

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (Sewer District) fully supports the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition's USEPA Assessment grant application. An award of these assessment funds will allow the Coalition to continue effectively promoting brownfield redevelopment and economic growth throughout Cuyahoga County.

For the past 40 years, the Sewer District has provided clean water services to the City of Cleveland and 61 suburban communities across the Rocky, Cuyahoga, Lake Erie Direct Tributaries, and Chagrin River watersheds. Among the Sewer District's efforts to improve regional water quality is the implementation of our innovative approach to reduce the discharge of raw sewage to the environment in the form of combined sewer overflows. We are deploying a combination of traditional gray infrastructure and green infrastructure. Our Green Infrastructure Program focuses on controlling stormwater before it enters the combined sewer system.

To continue the success of our Green Infrastructure Program, we are repurposing vacant parcels to include stormwater management features. In 2013 and 2014 the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition funded environmental assessment reports for two of our green infrastructure projects, including Phase I and II site assessments, and an Asbestos Survey of an abandoned industrial building. This funding was essential to our ability to fully evaluate and execute these projects.

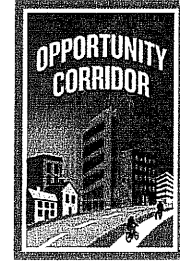
The Sewer District is committed to assisting the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition to identify projects for assessment funds. We support the Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant application and the numerous opportunities it brings to our region.

Sincerely,

Frank P. Greenland
Director of Watershed Programs

December 18, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development, Cuyahoga County
East 9th Street, 11 Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115



Dear Mr. Benders;

RE: Support for and Commitment to Cuyahoga County's FY2015 U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant Proposal

Dear Mr. Benders:

This letter expresses the Opportunity Corridor Partnership's strong support for and commitment to assisting with planning and implementation of Cuyahoga County's USEPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in the Opportunity Corridor area. This five-neighborhood desolate, area of Cleveland with 67,089 residents; high unemployment, poverty and minority residents was the subject of a 2013 Brownfield area-wide planning grant. The study focused on 225 acres of potential redevelopment sites. Over 100 acres were labeled as brownfields, over 77 acres were considered high-risk or under regulatory enforcement. The assistance provided by the Cleanup Grant will enable the assessment of vacant, blighted sites that were identified as part of the 2013 Brownfields study

The Opportunity Corridor Partnership was formed in conjunction with the development of a new \$331 million 3 ½ mile road being constructed through some of Cleveland's most disadvantaged neighborhoods which have suffered from historic disinvestment. The purpose of the Partnership is to use the road as a catalyst to coordinate a comprehensive group of stakeholders that will achieve transformational economic development and quality of life goals for these neighborhoods. A major obstacle to redevelopment is the many abandoned and contaminated properties in the vicinity of the new road. Clean-up and mitigation of these sites is essential to reaching both the quality of life and economic development goals. With clean, well maintained sites, businesses can be attracted back to these neighborhoods, once again providing jobs, goods and services to local residents.

We strongly support the County's District's grant application and are committed to assisting in the planning and implementation if the grant is awarded. The Assessment grant would represent a significant step toward the preparation of blighted abandoned properties for economic development. Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Kittredge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marie Kittredge, Executive Director

1240 Huron Road, Suite 3000 ■ Cleveland, OH 44115 ■ Phone: 216-592-2297 ■
mkittredge@OpportunityCle.net

Opportunity Corridor Partnership

1240 Huron Road, Suite 3000 ▪ Cleveland, OH 44115 ▪ Phone: 216-592-2297 ▪
mkittredge@OpportunityCle.net



BURTEN, BELL, CARR DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Bridgeport Place
7201 Kinsman Rd., Ste. 104
Cleveland, Ohio 44104
216.341.1455 • Fax 216.341.2683
www.bbcdevelopment.org

December 16, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County
East 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Benders;

I understand that Cuyahoga County is applying for \$600,000 from the EPA Brownfields Assessment program targeted for Cleveland and its inner-ring suburbs. On behalf of Burten, Bell, Carr Development, Inc. (BBC), I would like to offer my support of and commitment to your application.

As a nonprofit community development corporation serving impoverished inner-city neighborhoods, one of our primary functions is redeveloping vacant land that once possessed residential, commercial, or industrial uses. We face the challenge of not knowing whether those previous uses will be a hurdle in the implementation of our revitalization projects. Brownfield assessments help us understand with what circumstances we are dealing, reducing the likelihood of discoveries later in the development process that can potentially derail a project.

We aim to revitalize a portion of the communities through which the proposed Cleveland Opportunity Corridor will traverse. This area is comprised primarily of vacant land that is ripe for economic development. The massive investment in the Opportunity Corridor should be leveraged to revitalize the surrounding neighborhoods by returning vacant land to a productive use that provides employment to residents and fulfills needs of the neighborhood. However, environmental conditions are largely unknown.

The City of Cleveland, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, is aiming to support revival and renewal efforts in the Opportunity Corridor area. The City secured a Brownfield Area-wide Planning Pilot Grant to help prioritize development projects in the area. The City and its partners are attempting to attract resources to implement this plan.

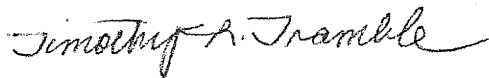
An EPA grant award would enable the City of Cleveland to move forward with the important step of environmental site assessment. With a commitment for funding from USEPA, we can continue and expand the neighborhood transformation that has taken flight along the perimeter of this area.

Addressing the environmental uncertainties of this part of our serve area will:

- Produce economic generators within a historically underserved, economically depressed area.
- Provide economic opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents.
- Redevelop large vacant and abandoned tracts of land;
- Move forward on City/USEPA plan to redevelop numerous brownfield sites within the project area.
- Keep, support, or grow existing businesses, institutions, and local community developments
- Improve job opportunities for area residents
- Improve regional water quality through coordinated effort of Cuyahoga County, and NEORS to construct new storm sewer system.

We strongly support the Coalition's USEPA Assessment Grant application and the many positive opportunities it will bring to the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Timothy L. Tramble". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Timothy L. Tramble
Executive Director



December 16, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County
East 9th Street, 11th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Benders:

Please accept this letter as testimony of The Buckeye Shaker Square Development Corporation's (BSSDC) strong support of, and commitment to, Cuyahoga County's application for \$600,000 in EPA Brownfields Assessment targeted for Cleveland and the inner ring suburbs.

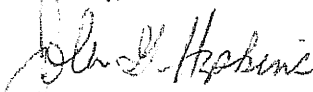
BSSDC has established itself as the primary agent for change in the Buckeye Shaker area. Our mission is to plan, organize and coordinate resources and activities that will empower the community at large to enhance the quality of life through positive revitalization, stabilization and growth. We work to create opportunities for homeownership for low- to moderate-income residents, as well as opportunities for small businesses. We also advocate for the health, education, economic opportunity, and quality of life for our residents.

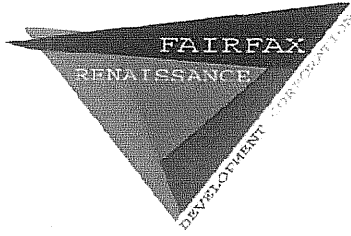
BSSDC recently played a key role in developing the Buckeye Larchmere Shaker Square Woodland Hills Transformation Vision Plan which was unveiled in 2014; we are charged with providing the leadership to carry out the strategies and recommendations outlined in the plan. We see the Cuyahoga Brownfields Assessment Initiative as a welcome addition to our work, and will collaborate with the County on integrating it into our collective vision for the area.

During the visioning process, BSSDC built a robust community engagement process. We will build on that to communicate information about the initiative and to engage residents on progress and impacts. We view this initiative as an opportunity to educate our stakeholders about the impacts of brownfields on their health, economic viability and quality of life.

On behalf of BSSDC, I would like to thank you for putting this initiative forward and welcome the opportunity to work with you. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


John G. Hopkins
Executive Director



8111 Quincy Avenue ♦ Suite 100 ♦ Cleveland, OH 44104

Phone: 216-361-8400 ♦ Fax: 216-361-8407

December 17, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County
East 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Benders;

Please accept this letter as Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation's (FRDC) strong commitment to and support of Cuyahoga County's application for \$600,000 in EPA Brownfields Assessment targeted for Cleveland and the inner ring suburbs.

In corporate in 1992, the FDRC is a non-profit community development corporation whose mission is "to strengthen neighbourhoods in Northeast Ohio through comprehensive community development."

FRDC carries out community revitalization activity through the development of affordable and market rate housing, promotes economic development activity through commercial, retail and institutional initiatives, and acts as a catalyst to spur community visioning through comprehensive master planning. In response to planning activities FRDC develops programs and partnerships to address educational, health and wellness, safety, sustainability, technological and youth initiatives. FRDC is a certified Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) in the city of East Cleveland.

On behalf of FRDC, I would like to thank you for assisting us with our mission to strengthen our redevelopment efforts in both the Opportunity Corridor of Cleveland Ohio and the Inner Ring Suburb of East Cleveland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Denise VanLeer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise VanLeer
Executive Director



December 16, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County
East 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Benders;

On behalf of Slavic Village Development (SVD), I would like to express our strong support for Cuyahoga County's application for \$600,000 in EPA Brownfields Assessment targeted for Cleveland and the inner ring suburbs.

Slavic Village Development (SVD) is a non-profit community development corporation serving the North and South Broadway neighborhoods of Cleveland, Ohio which covers approximately five square miles and is home to roughly 22,500 people. Our organizational goal is to revitalize the neighborhood through rehabilitation of existing housing, storefronts and buildings; construction of new homes; retention of existing buildings and recruitment of new ones; and provision of housing services and community organizing programs to improve the quality of life.

Slavic Village is located in the heart of Cleveland and suffered disproportionately from the economic downturn and the foreclosure crisis; it has a 35% poverty rate, a median income of \$26,304 and, according to 2013 data, a housing vacancy rate of 28%. Through public and private sector partnerships and collaborations, we are rebuilding and regaining our residential and industrial base.

The County's goals dovetail with ours, and we are committed to bringing our resources to the table to help identify strategic brownfields sites, conduct assessments, and bring community residents to the table to help guide their redevelopment. SVD will work with neighborhood residents to share information on the initiative and its impact on the area. We will communicate initiative progress and outcomes to our stakeholders, and will open our doors for planning meetings and updates.

Once again, we strongly support this initiative and hope to collaborate with the County and continue our progress in revitalizing Slavic Village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Alvarado", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Alvarado,
Executive Director



317 East 156th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44110
Phone 216/481-7660 • Fax 216/481-7129
www.northeastshores.org



Serving the neighborhoods of North Shore Collinwood

December 15, 2014

Ms. Janise (Jan) Bayne, MBA
Senior Development Finance Analyst
Community Assessment Initiative Program Manager
Cuyahoga County Department of Development
2079 East 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Ms. Bayne:

Please consider this letter as a letter of support for Cuyahoga County application for Federal EPA funding to be utilized in the East 185th Street Corridor. Please find information below that we feel presents a compelling case for EPA funding to be utilized in this corridor. We feel that the targeted community would benefit by improving the health of its population as well as improving the overall economic wealth of the area by providing economic opportunities in the East 185th Street Corridor.

A. Targeted Community Description:

East 185th Corridor is a historic "main street" adjoining the North Eastern edge of The City of Cleveland in the North Shores Cleveland Neighborhood (population 17,869) with the western border of the city of Euclid (population 48,564).

B. Planning Study Underway:


These two communities are working together to redevelop this area for the Transportation for Livable Community Initiative (TLCI), a grant which was awarded to Cuyahoga County as the lead agency serving the City of Euclid and the City of Cleveland working with Northeast Shores Development Corporation.

The health of the area can be described as: of their remaining residents with aging populations (14-33% over 65); sensitive populations, which includes 39% of their population includes women of childbearing age and 6.25% children under age 5. **Overall Economic wealth** of their residents has an average unemployment rate of 11.28% which is almost twice that of the national average (6.2%).

Funding has been awarded to assist in planning and redevelopment of the commercial district through the LTCI study which is currently underway. In order to determine the environmental impacts to our adjoining communities, the area residents desperately need USEPA funding to provide critical assessment of the environmental conditions of several vacant underutilized property sites such as the vacated former Lake Shore Chevy site car dealership, The LaSalle Theater block, as well as the former Medic Drug store site which once had drycleaners services supplied there.

If awarded, Northeast Shores Development Corporation will commit: our space as well as required resources to hold community meetings to discuss the grant award, review incoming project applications, as well as identifying sites.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard. Should you require additional information, please call me at Northeast Shores Development Corporation.


Brian A. Friedman
Executive Director

Cc: Cuyahoga County Department of Development

Board of Directors

Laura Lee Martin, President
Neighborhood Resident

KC Petraitis, Vice President
Neighborhood Resident

Aaron Habermann, Treasurer
Huntington Bank

Caroline J. Peak, Secretary
Neighborhood Resident

Frank Barresi
Martin's Men's Wear

Joe Bruzas
Image Mart

Bill Eppich
Advance Glass Sales Service

Mike Gallagher
Neighborhood Resident

Pete Gulyas
Blue Arrow Record

Melanie Hershberger
Music Saves

Stephen Love
Adopt A Beach

Cpt. Christopher Mauk
Salvation Army

Rhonda McLean
Neighborhood Resident

David Mitchell
Neighborhood Resident

Richard Osborne
VASJ High School

Michael Palcisco
Neighborhood Resident

Stephanie Pope
Neighborhood Resident

Joe Radisek
Neighborhood Resident

Filippo Scafidi
Euclid Hospital

Michelle Seyranian
Hospice of the Western Reserve

Michael D. Polensek
Ex-Officio Trustee



www.cityofeuclid.com

585 East 222nd Street, Euclid, OH 44123-2099

Bill Cervenik, Mayor
Phone: 216/289-2751
Fax: 216/289-2766

December 18, 2014

Larry Benders
Director of Development
Cuyahoga County
East 9th Street, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Benders:

Please accept this letter in support of Cuyahoga County's application for federal brownfield funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As a targeted community, the City of Euclid will benefit from this funding through the improved health and economic welfare of our community.

One area where this funding will be especially beneficial is the East 185th Street Corridor. Recently, we have partnered with the City of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to initiate a planning and redevelopment process for the corridor. Funding from the EPA will be critical in the redevelopment of vacant and underutilized properties in the area, such as the former Lake Shore Chevy site.

If Cuyahoga County is awarded this funding, the City of Euclid and the Euclid Community Improvement Corporation are committed to partnering with you. We will assist by providing space for meetings, help to identify brownfield sites, and facilitate communication with our residents and stakeholders. Together, this will surely be a successful initiative.

Please contact me if there is anything else you may need for this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Cervenik".

Bill Cervenik, Mayor



22639 Euclid Avenue
Euclid, OH 44117
p (216) 731-9322
f (216) 865-4925
info@euclidchamber.com

Jonathan Holody
Planning and Development Director
Euclid City Hall
585 East 222nd Street
Euclid, OH 44123

December 16, 2014

Dear Mr. Holody,

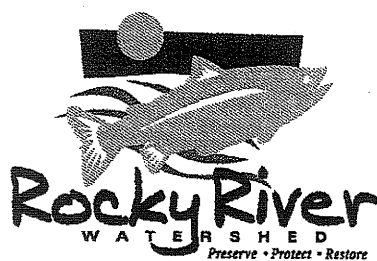
The City of Euclid is a member of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium who is partnering with Cuyahoga County Department of Development, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority to form the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition who is applying for USEPA Assessment funds. The Euclid Chamber of Commerce shares the same goals as the Coalition to clean and prepare underutilized former commercial and industrial sites in our community to make these sites ready for re-development.

We are happy to help spread the good news of the projects that will move forward as a result of this potential award. We may cover the story in our regular newsletter or may have the Coalition come to one of our membership meetings to discuss the project, and its impact on our community, at greater detail. We understand that these funds have been instrumental in some of the largest redevelopment improvements made in our and neighboring communities in Cuyahoga County – including the recent Cedar Center North project in South Euclid, and one of the first Northcoast Brownfield Coalition projects, the redevelopment of three blighted motels into new fully occupied medical and office buildings in Fairview Park.

Please keep us updated on this grant application. Best of luck to you and the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition.

Sincerely,

Sheila Gibbons
Executive Director



Rocky River Watershed Council

December 12, 2014

Mayor Eileen Ann Patton
City of Fairview Park
20777 Lorain Road
Fairview Park, OH 44126

Dear Mayor Patton,

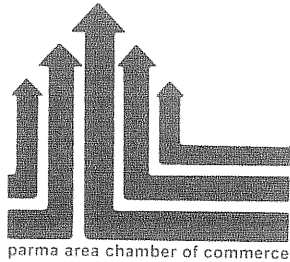
The City of Fairview Park is a member of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, who has partnered with the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority to form the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition. This Coalition is applying for US EPA Assessment funds. The Rocky River Watershed Council supports the goals of the Coalition to clean and restore underutilized former commercial and industrial sites in our community, prepare these sites ready for re-development, and prevent containments from entering and harming our local watershed.

We are happy to help spread the good news of the projects that will move forward as a result of this potential award. We may cover the story in our regular newsletter or may have the Coalition come to one of our membership meetings to discuss the project and its impact on our community. We understand that these funds have been instrumental in some of the largest redevelopment improvements made in our and neighboring communities in Cuyahoga County – including the recent Cedar Center North project in South Euclid, and one of the first Northcoast Brownfield Coalition projects: the redevelopment of three blighted motels into new fully occupied medical and office buildings in Fairview Park.

Please keep us updated on this grant application. On behalf of the Rocky River Watershed Council, I wish the best of luck to you and the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition.

Sincerely,

Matthew T. Hrubey, Secretary
on behalf of the
Rocky River Watershed Council Board of Directors



PARMA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Parmatown Mall
7908 Day Drive
Parma, OH 44129
(440) 886-1700
FAX (440) 886-1770
E-mail: chamber@parmaareachamber.org
Web: www.parmaareachamber.org

December 12, 2014

Dear Shelley Cullins

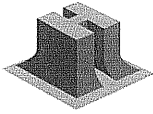
The City of Parma is a member of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium who is partnering with Cuyahoga County Department of Development, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority to form the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition who is applying for USEPA Assessment funds. The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce shares the same goals as the Coalition to clean and prepare underutilized former commercial and industrial sites in our community to make these sites ready for re-development.

We are happy to help spread the good news of the projects that will move forward as a result of this potential award. We may cover the story in our regular newsletter or may have the Coalition come to one of our membership meetings to discuss the project, and its impact on our community, at greater detail. We understand that these funds have been instrumental in some of the largest redevelopment improvements made in our and neighboring communities in Cuyahoga County – including the recent Cedar Center North project in South Euclid, and one of the first Northcoast Brownfield Coalition projects, the redevelopment of three blighted motels into new fully occupied medical and office buildings in Fairview Park.

Please keep us updated on this grant application. Best of luck to you and the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition.

Sincerely,

David Nedrich
President
Parma Area Chamber of Commerce



Heights-Hillcrest Regional
Chamber of Commerce

12/16/14

Larry Benders
Director
Cuyahoga County Department of Development
2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, OH 44115

Dear Larry,

I hope this finds you well.

I am writing in support of the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium who is partnering with Cuyahoga County Department of Development, City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority to form the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition who is applying for USEPA Assessment funds.

As you may know, four of the six cities that HRCC represents (Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, University Heights and South Euclid,) are also members of the First Suburbs Consortium, and we fully support the goals of the Coalition to clean and prepare underutilized former commercial and industrial sites in our community to make these sites ready for re-development.

We are happy to help spread the good news of the projects that will move forward as a result of this potential award. We will cover the story in our newsletter to our membership, and would love to have the Coalition come to one of our business breakfast meetings to discuss the project, and its impact on our community, in greater detail. We understand that these funds have been instrumental in some of the largest redevelopment improvements made in our and neighboring communities in Cuyahoga County – including the recent Cedar Center North project in South Euclid, and one of the first Northcoast Brownfield Coalition projects, the redevelopment of three blighted motels into new fully occupied medical and office buildings in Fairview Park.

Please keep us updated on this grant application. Best of luck to you and the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition.

Sincerely,

Angie Pohlman
Executive Director

Our mission: To provide opportunities and offer support, nurturing the environment of our business community.

Appendix 7: Documentation of HUD-DOT-EPA-PSC Grant



HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Shaun Donovan, Secretary
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

HUD No. 10-233

Brian Sullivan

(202) 708-0685

<http://www.hud.gov/news/index.cfm>

FOR RELEASE

Thursday

October 14, 2010

HUD AWARDS NEARLY \$100 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS TO PROMOTE SMARTER AND SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Part of Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities

WASHINGTON – For the first time ever, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding nearly \$100 million in new grants to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced that 45 regional areas will receive funding through a new initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.

HUD's new *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program* will support State, local, and tribal governments, as well as metropolitan planning organizations, in the development and execution of regional plans that integrate affordable housing with neighboring retail and business development (see attached list of grantees). Many of the grants will leverage existing infrastructure and all reward local collaboration and innovation.

"Regions that embrace sustainable communities will have a built-in competitive edge in attracting jobs and private investment," said Donovan. "Planning our communities smarter means parents will spend less time driving and more time with their children; more families will live in safe, stable communities near good schools and jobs; and more businesses will have access to the capital and talent they need to grow and prosper. In awarding these grants we were committed to using insight and innovation from our stakeholders and local partners to develop a 'bottom-up' approach to changing federal policy as opposed to 'top-down.' Rather than sticking to the old Washington playbook of dictating how communities can invest their grants, HUD's application process encouraged creative, locally focused thinking."

These grants are part of the Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings EPA, HUD, USDA and DOT together to ensure that the agencies' policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together. This interagency collaboration gets better results for communities and uses taxpayer money more efficiently. Coordinating federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services meets multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives with each dollar spent. The Partnership is helping communities across the country to create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods

-more-

HUD No. 10-233

Page 2

that attract businesses. At a time when every dollar the federal government invests in jumpstarting the economy is critical, the President's plan ensures that all these agencies are coordinating efforts and targeting resources with precision. Reflecting this new collaboration, these grants were judged by a multidisciplinary review team, drawn from eight federal agencies and from partners in philanthropy.

HUD's inaugural grants under this program will support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that incorporate housing, land use, economic development, transportation and infrastructure. This holistic planning approach will benefit diverse areas across the U.S. including \$25.6 million split evenly between regions with populations less than 500,000 and rural places (fewer than 200,000 people). HUD is reserving \$2 million to help all of these areas build the needed capacity to execute their plans.

The grants are awarded through one of two categories. One category of grants will assist regional planning for sustainable development where such plans do not currently exist. A second category of funding will support the implementation of existing sustainability plans.

Shelley Poticha, the director of HUD's new Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities said, "The response to this program is huge. We were inundated with applications from every state and two territories – from central cities to rural areas and tribal governments. This program was designed by people from local government, and incorporated local input at every stage."

###

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Finalists				
State	Grantee	Area	CAT	Grant Amount
Alabama	East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission	Anniston	1	\$225,000
Arizona	Apache County	St. Johns	1	\$820,500
Arkansas	Southern Bancorp Capital Partners	Helena-West Helena	1	\$710,900
California	California State University, Fresno Foundation	Fresno	2	\$4,000,000
	Sacramento Area Council of Governments	Sacramento	2	\$1,500,000
Connecticut	Capitol Region Council of Governments	Hartford	2	\$4,200,000
	Windham Region Council of Governments	Willimantic	1	\$225,000
Florida	South Florida Regional Planning Council	Hollywood	1	\$4,250,000
	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Bartow	1	\$1,400,000
Illinois	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Chicago	2	\$4,250,000
	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	Peoria	2	\$1,200,000
	Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Rockford	1	\$600,000
Indiana	Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization	Evansville	1	\$1,420,300
Iowa	Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Urbandale	1	\$2,200,000
Kentucky	University of Kentucky Research Foundation	Lexington	1	\$680,000
Maine	Greater Portland Council of Governments	Portland	1	\$1,600,000
Maine	Northern Maine Development Commission	Caribou	1	\$800,000
Massachusetts	Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Boston	2	\$4,000,000
	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Pittsfield	1	\$590,700
	Franklin Regional Council of Governments	Greenfield	1	\$425,000
Michigan	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments	Detroit	2	\$2,850,000
Minnesota	Metropolitan Council	St. Paul	2	\$5,000,000
	Region Five Development Commission	Staples	1	\$825,050
Mississippi	Gulf Regional Planning Commission	Gulfport	1	\$2,000,000
Missouri	East-West Gateway Council of Governments	Saint Louis	1	\$4,687,750
	Mid-America Regional Council	Kansas city	2	\$4,250,000
New York	Regional Plan Association Inc.	New York	2	\$3,500,000
North Carolina	Land-of-Sky Regional Council	Asheville	1	\$1,600,000
	Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation	Greensboro	1	\$1,600,000
Ohio	Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency	Cleveland	1	\$4,250,000
Oregon	Lane Council of Governments	Eugene	2	\$1,450,000

South Dakota	Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation	Porcupine	1	\$996,100
Tennessee	City of Knoxville, Tennessee	Knoxville	1	\$4,327,500
Texas	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Houston	1	\$3,750,000
	Capital Area Council of Governments	Austin	2	\$3,700,000
Utah	Salt Lake County	Salt lake city	2	\$5,000,000
Vermont	Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Winooski	2	\$995,000
Virginia	New River Valley Planning District Commission	Radford	1	\$1,000,000
	Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission	Charlottesville	2	\$999,000
	Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission	Roanoke	1	\$625,000
Washington	Puget Sound Regional Council	Seattle	2	\$ 4,999,700
	Thurston Regional Planning Council	Olympia	1	\$1,500,000
Wisconsin	Capital Area Regional Planning Commission	Madison	2	\$1,997,500
	Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc.	Lac du Flambeau	1	\$525,000
	Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	Platteville	1	\$475,000
Reserved for Capacity Building				\$2,000,000
TOTAL				\$ 100,000,000

Harry Conard - RE: Sustainable Communities

From: "John Mitterholzer" <jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org>
To: "Harry Conard" <hconard@cuyahogacounty.us>
Date: 4/13/2010 4:09 PM
Subject: RE: Sustainable Communities

Harry,

I have spoken to the GAR, Stark Community Foundation, and the Lorain Community Foundation and they are all interested in participating in the application process. They have also all agreed to reach out to the mayors of Canton, Akron, Lorain, and Elyria and to seek their support. So far, I have raised \$15k towards a facilitator and a grant writer.

John

From: Harry Conard [mailto:hconard@cuyahogacounty.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 2:34 PM
To: John Mitterholzer
Subject: Re: Sustainable Communities

Since I am unable to send you an email direct, I wanted to share with you the email I just sent to K. Silliman in Jackson's office.

harry

Mr. Silliman,

I was asked by Jim McCafferty to send you this background email and attachment.

The attachment is HUD's Advance Notice and Request for Comment for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. This document served as the basis for conversations held at six locations around the nation. One session was held here in Cleveland on March 10th and sparked discussion on ways our region could work together and begin planning for Sustainable Growth. As you know, working together on regional issues is very new for governments in North East Ohio. The NOFA is expected to be issued in Mid-May will offer planning grants up to \$5 million to **Regional Collaborations**.

By its very size, such a grant would be a powerful stimulus to beginning that "working cooperatively conversation" and would build on the work of Voices and Choices, foundation initiatives, and new programming at Cleveland City Hall and in other communities in the region.

One small discussion group met at NOACA's offices to determine if seeking such a planning grant was feasible from the viewpoint of local foundations, the regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and local governments. No specific project or direction was even considered. There will another such meeting at NOACA on Tuesday, April 20th at 2:30 pm. We would welcome the City's participation.

Thank you for your time,

harry

Harry Conard, Jr.
Governmental Programs Administrator
Department of Development
112 Hamilton Ave, 4th fl
Cleveland, OH 44114
Office # 216.443.7260
Direct # 216.443.7531
Fax # 216.443.7260

>>> "John Mitterholzer" jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org > 4/5/2010 10:05 AM >>



Cleveland, Akron part of regional planning group that wins \$4.25 million 'sustainable communities' grant

Published: Friday, October 15, 2010, 1:04 PM Updated: Saturday, October 16, 2010, 7:51 AM



By **Tom Breckenridge, The Plain Dealer**



[View full size](#)

City Architecture

Transportation planners work extensively with diagrams like this one by City Architecture of Cleveland, showing proposed on- and off-ramps to the Inner Belt that were under discussion in 2008.

Updated at 4:15 p.m.

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Regional planning focused on fortifying existing neighborhoods and linking people with jobs will be fueled by a \$4.25 million federal grant.

Twenty-one entities, including Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Youngstown, won a "sustainable communities" grant **announced today** by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The effort "seeks to develop a comprehensive regional plan that can catalyze economic development and

support a healthy lifestyle for all of us," said Howard Maier, head of the **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency**, a transportation planning group that was the lead applicant for the money.

The 21 entities are from 12 counties, stretching from the Mahoning Valley to Lorain. They formed a consortium that was among 45 winners nationwide of grants totaling \$100 million.

The grants are an effort by President Obama's administration to encourage federal agencies, and the regions that receive their money, to create more vital, diverse and connected communities.

Such communities attract skilled workers and the companies that want them, Shaun Donovan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said in an interview at The Plain Dealer.

Donovan announced the grant today at NOACA offices in downtown Cleveland, joined by Mayor Frank Jackson and U.S. Reps. Marcia Fudge and Dennis Kucinich, Democrats from Cleveland, and Tim Ryan, from Niles.

HUD will join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation in overseeing the grants.

A major thrust will be planning that encourages people to live closer to where they work, thereby reducing transportation costs, relieving highway congestion and improving the environment, Donovan said.

"The problem historically has been that more and more development has spread out in an uncoordinated way," Donovan said. "We haven't planned transportation investments so that they connect housing to jobs."

HUD, EPA and the Department of Transportation send tens of millions of dollars a year to cities, counties and planning agencies in Northeast Ohio for programs and projects, especially in housing and transportation.

But the local jurisdictions rarely plan together to ensure the big investments sustain the entire region, rather than help some communities and hurt others.

Locally, planners said they'd like to see strategies encouraging communities to unify in the global competition for business, rather than against each other.

"I don't think it will be a panacea," Jason Segedy, director of the **Akron-area transportation-planning group**, said of the planning effort. "If we don't change the world, that's OK. But if we can make a better land-use decision in one community, that's a very worthwhile thing."

The grant could help Northeast Ohio move beyond the rhetoric of regionalism, said Chris Warren, chief of regional development for Cleveland.

"This will provide a structured, disciplined way to pursue real, tangible approaches to regional cooperation," Warren said.

Northeast Ohio Consortium members

A group of 20 public and private entities, called the Northeast Ohio Consortium for a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, has landed a \$4.25 million federal grant to set regional priorities in land use, fair housing, transportation, economic development and environmental protection.

Members of the group are: Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, Stark County Regional Planning Commission/Stark County Area Transportation Study, Cuyahoga County, Lorain County, Mahoning County, Stark County, Summit County, Trumbull County, Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Warren, Youngstown, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Cleveland State University Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Fund for Our Economic Future Regional Prosperity Initiative and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority.

The **Fund for Our Economic Future**, a group of nonprofits investing millions of dollars in regional development, supplied \$25,000 to put the grant application together.

"This is a huge deal," said Brad Whitehead, president of the future fund. "It's really the first time that the region has been able to come together to win a federal grant of this proportion and dimension."

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Harry Conard - Re: Sustainable Communities

From: James McCafferty
To: Conard, Harry; Oyaski, Paul
Date: 4/5/2010 1:43 PM
Subject: Re: Sustainable Communities

Agreed.

James McCafferty, MSSA
Cuyahoga County Administrator
County Administration Building
1219 Ontario Street, 4th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Phone: (216) 443-7215
Fax: (216) 443-8088
Email: jmccafferty@cuyahogacounty.us
Website: www.cuyahogacounty.us



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

>>> Paul Oyaski 4/5/2010 1:23 PM >>>
This would be a good regional initiative. po

>>> Harry Conard 4/5/2010 1:22 PM >>>

I wanted to brief you on a pre-application discussion that was held on April 1st at NOACA's offices. In attendance were John Mitterholzer, representing the Gund Foundation, Howard Maier, Executive Director of NOACA and two of his staff, Douglas Shelby, Director of HUD's Cleveland Office, and myself.

HUD will be issuing a Notice of Funding Availability for three tiers of planning grants. Our area should seek a Tier 1 grant up to \$5 million for those regions/areas that have yet to develop a regional plan to promote sustainable communities. Such a grant would **assist regional collaborations - definition yet to be precisely determined.**

Mitterholzer from Gund had just met with Shelley Poticha, Director of HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at a meeting in Pittsburgh. Poticha recognizes that this is a difficult issue for areas in the Midwest that have been hard hit with job losses. But our group agreed that obtaining such a grant would greatly assist in kick starting regional planning.

This White House is convinced that for regions to flourish, they must begin to plan on regional scales and these funds are designed to initiate that very difficult conversation. A successful application from this area would need the support of philanthropic organizations, the regional planning organizations, one applicant experienced in successfully handling HUD grants. (Potentially the County's role) as well as the involvement of the four major cities in the region - Cleveland, Canton, Akron, and Cleveland. Youngstown's mayor is on record supporting such a regional planning effort.

Additional preplanning sessions would be used to identify areas of mutual interests that would then be placed into the application. Clearly stand alone applications from individual cities or counties will not be well received or funded.

The Gund Foundation has indicated an interest in financially supporting the preparation of the application.



Planning with **VISION**

STRENGTHEN
regional cohesion

PRESERVE
existing infrastructure

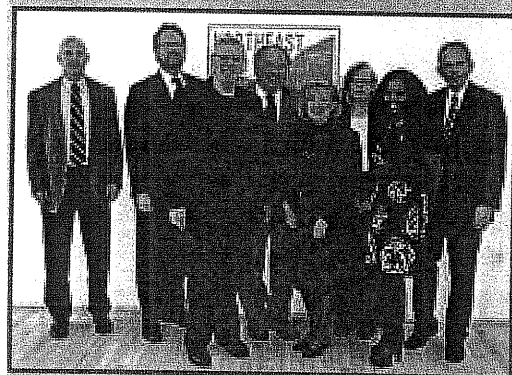
BUILD
a sustainable multimodal
transportation system

SUPPORT
economic development

ENHANCE
quality of life

2014 Annual Report





2014 Board officers, L-R: Adam Friedrich, Nathan Kelly (alternate for Edward FitzGerald), John D. Hunter, Daniel P. Troy, Mary E. Samide, Kathleen Scheutzow, Valarie J. McCall and Ted Kalo

Officers

President: Mary E. Samide, Geauga County Commissioner

First Vice President: Ted Kalo, Lorain County Commissioner

Second Vice President: Daniel P. Troy, Lake County Commissioner

Secretary: Adam Friedrich, Medina County Commissioner

Assistant Secretary: Robert E. Aufuldish, Lake County Commissioner

Assistant Secretary: Kathleen Scheutzow, Brunswick Hills Township Trustee

Treasurer: Edward O. FitzGerald, Cuyahoga County Executive

Assistant Treasurer: Julius Ciaccia, Jr., Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

Assistant Treasurer: John D. Hunter, Mayor of Sheffield Village

Immediate Past Board President: Valarie J. McCall, Chief of Government and International Affairs, City of Cleveland

Members*

Samuel J. Alai, Mayor of Broadview Heights

Janisha R. Briley, City Manager of Cleveland Heights

Holly Brinda, Mayor of Elyria

Joseph A. Calabrese, CEO/General Manager, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

Kenneth P. Carney, Sr., P.E., P.S., Lorain County Engineer

William R. Cervenik, Mayor of Euclid

Scott E. Coleman, Mayor of Highland Heights

Freddy Collier Jr., Director, City of Cleveland Planning Commission

Yvonne M. Conwell, Cuyahoga County Councilwoman

Glenn Coyne, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

Timothy J. DeGeeter, Mayor of Parma

Ann Marie Donegan, Mayor of Olmsted Falls

William D. Friedman, President/CEO, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority

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Richard Heidecker, Columbia Township Trustee

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Frank G. Jackson, Mayor of Cleveland

Raymond Jurkowski, General Manager, Laketran

Martin J. Keane, Cleveland Councilman

Mamie J. Mitchell, Cleveland Councilwoman

Judy Moran, Lake County Commissioner

Myron S. Pakush, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Transportation - District 12

Robert Patrick, Service Director, City of Wadsworth

Terrell H. Pruitt, Cleveland Councilman

Blake A. Rear, Geauga County Commissioner

Chase M. Ritenauer, Mayor of Lorain

Michael J. Salay, P.E., P.S., Medina County Engineer

Charles E. Smith, Mayor of Woodmere

Ralph Spidalieri, Geauga County Commissioner

Matthew L. Spronz, P.E., PMP, City of Cleveland Capital Projects Director

Robert A. Stefanik, Mayor of North Royalton

Michael P. Summers, Mayor of Lakewood

Deborah L. Sutherland, Mayor of Bay Village

Bonita G. Teeuwen, P.E., Cuyahoga County Public Works Director

Tom Williams, Lorain County Commissioner

Ex officio member:

Kurt Princic, Chief, Northeast District Office Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

* Seated Board members as of June 30, 2014

Planning with **VISION**

2014 Annual Report

This year the NOACA Board of Directors accomplished a milestone in its regional strategic plan development by adopting an agency Vision Statement. The Vision Statement sets the stage for NOACA's planning agenda and outlines tangible goals. As you read this report, you will notice how the goals carry through and influence NOACA's work, progress and achievements.

NOACA Vision Statement

NOACA will **STRENGTHEN** regional cohesion, **PRESERVE** existing infrastructure, and **BUILD** a sustainable multimodal transportation system to **SUPPORT** economic development and **ENHANCE** quality of life in Northeast Ohio.

About NOACA

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. NOACA performs planning for highways, bridges, public transit, bikeways and pedestrian facilities. The agency also conducts transportation-related air quality planning and functions as the areawide water quality planning agency. NOACA's 45-member Board of Directors, consisting of elected and appointed public officials from the five-county region, determines how federal transportation dollars are spent in northeast Ohio. The agency works closely with local communities, county engineers, transit agencies, and ODOT on project planning, development and funding in a public forum. The agency takes a broad and balanced view of the region's multimodal transportation system and seeks to preserve and improve the system throughout the entire metropolitan area.

Message from the President and Executive Director

Change has been a dominant theme at NOACA this past year as the agency continues to refine its operating procedures, increase the engagement of its Board of Directors and develop a Regional Strategic Plan. We are encouraged by the progress made on the strategic plan. Through Board diligence and visioning, NOACA now has a new Vision Statement with five integral goals, and objectives and strategies for meeting the goals. We shared these goals, objectives and strategies with the public this spring through online forums and community engagement sessions. The final plan is taking shape, and we anticipate that it will be considered for adoption by the Board this fall.

Over this past year, the Board worked industriously to revise the agency's governing document, the Code of Regulations, updating procedures and strengthening Board member engagement and commitment. NOACA expanded the agency's committee, subcommittee and council structure, and in January, the Board kicked off the New Year with newly formed committees, a new member appointment process and quarterly rotating Board/committee meeting schedule.

To accommodate increased Board membership and new committees,



Mary E. Samide
President, NOACA Board of Directors



Grace Gallucci
NOACA Executive Director

NOACA transformed unused space on the north side of its third floor into a state-of-the-art board room and executive office suite. This was the first significant investment in building improvements since the original renovation. With its improved audiovisual capabilities and simple, clean design, the new board room will serve as an outstanding venue for regional decision making. With the agency in the 16th year of a 20-year building lease, the Board opted to pay off the balance of the lease and take complete ownership of NOACA's office facility while saving the taxpayers approximately \$135,000 in interest costs.

NOACA launched its Transportation Asset Management Program (TAMP) to meet the challenge of restoring the region's crumbling roads to an acceptable operating condition, and engaged a consultant to help develop the program over the next two years. To address immediate needs, the Board adopted a Provisional Transportation Asset Management Policy to advance a program of repair and maintenance



Road repair and resurfacing work at Mayfield and Lee Roads in Cleveland Heights

2014 Annual Report

for roads that are in critical need of attention. The Board took the initiative to adopt innovative funding strategies that are fiscally responsible to implement this important program.

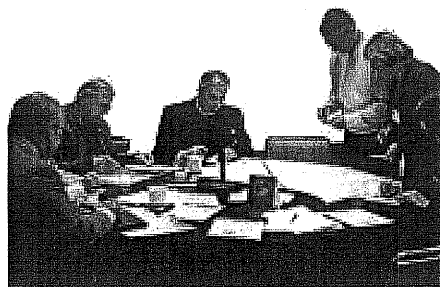
Speaking of roadways, we are proud to note that the agency has just completed its most efficient capital program in the past 10 years. Approximately 91 percent of the transportation improvement projects on our annual list of priority for fiscal year 2014 went out to bid on schedule. This demonstrates that we're using our federal funding allocations effectively. The Ohio Department of Transportation commended NOACA for delivering its projects and significantly reducing the agency's funding carryover balance.

In the air quality planning arena, NOACA monitors the region's air quality and supports strategies that reduce vehicle emissions that contribute to ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution. The agency is researching new approaches for air quality outreach, including implementing an online incentives program that encourages the use of cleaner transportation modes. In the spirit of sustainability, NOACA initiated its Commuter Choice Awards to recognize employers in the region that

promote alternative transportation modes and programs for their employees. Employers can achieve Gold, Silver or Bronze status based on the environmentally friendly programs and amenities they offer. It is our hope that intense competition among employers for Gold level status will lead to lasting changes in their employees' commute behavior.

NOACA's water quality staff has been actively supporting regional planning efforts that advance efficiency in planning and managing water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure. Together with Ohio EPA and the Northeast Ohio Storm Water Training Council, NOACA convened a successful workshop for local communities that will need to update their Storm Water Management Plan to meet the new permit requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.

NOACA planning work plays a major role in projects that have



Board members engage in a Regional Strategic Plan visioning exercise.



NOACA's Board of Directors meets in the new state-of-the-art board room.

transportation and environmental components. This spring, NOACA collected parking and travel data for the City of Cleveland as officials submitted a bid to the Republican National Convention selection committee to host the 2016 convention. The work, which helped the city develop its proposal, was rewarded with the good news that Cleveland's bid proved successful! This is an outstanding bipartisan accomplishment that can only provide economic benefit to and recognition for all of northeast Ohio.

We are proud of all of the agency's successes, which reflect the hard work and leadership of our Board of Directors, committees and staff. It is a privilege to present NOACA's accomplishments and activities from the past year, and we look forward to building on that momentum this coming year.

GOAL 1

STRENGTHEN regional cohesion

NOACA serves as the forum for dialogue about transportation and environmental priorities, best practices, policy decisions, and other issues of regional concern. NOACA works in partnership with federal, state and local authorities, communities, and the private sector to plan and implement transportation and environmental plans and programs that meet the needs of a diverse public.

Regional Strategic Plan visioning produces agency Vision Statement

In early 2013, NOACA initiated a process for developing a Regional Strategic Plan for northeast Ohio, with the objective of adopting a new vision, mission, goals and a foundation upon which to build the agency's work and capital program. During the past year, NOACA made significant strides toward creating this plan.

A milestone in the planning process was reached in January 2014 with Board adoption of a Vision Statement. The Vision Statement embraces five distinctive goals:

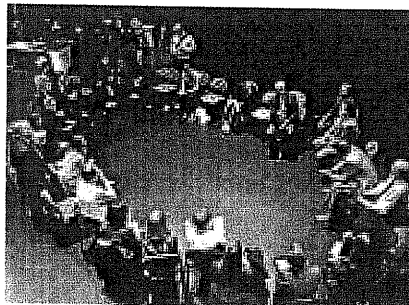
- **Strengthen** regional cohesion
- **Preserve** existing infrastructure
- **Build** a sustainable multimodal transportation system

- **Support** economic development
- **Enhance** quality of life in Northeast Ohio

Once the vision and goals were established, the Board developed objectives for each goal and strategies that address the goals and connect the vision, goals and

objectives to performance measures and the way NOACA conducts its day-to-day business.

In partnership with The Civic Commons, NOACA offered public engagement opportunities via three online discussions. NOACA also solicited feedback through its social media outlets, held three small community sessions, and a large community forum at the Idea Center at Playhouse Square in Cleveland. Across all forums, the Vision Statement and goals generated thoughtful, relevant conversation and predominantly supportive response. NOACA anticipates that the final regional strategic plan will be considered for adoption by the Board this fall.



Regional Strategic Plan community forum at the Idea Center

NOACA Board revises Code of Regulations

Discussion and exercises conducted during the regional strategic planning process prompted NOACA's Board of Directors to review the agency's governing document, the Code of Regulations. NOACA convened a Code of Regulations task force and solicited input from all Board members to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing Code, areas of concern, and potential areas of improvement. The resulting review led to several changes, from minor clarifications to ratification procedures to Board member appointments.

One significant change resulting from the Code of Regulations review involved forming new committees and revising the committee reporting structure to ensure more engagement and oversight from Board members in the decision-making process. In early 2014, the newly formed committees met and adopted charters which clarify their purpose, membership and goals.

Vibrant NEO 2040 outlines a vision for northeast Ohio's future

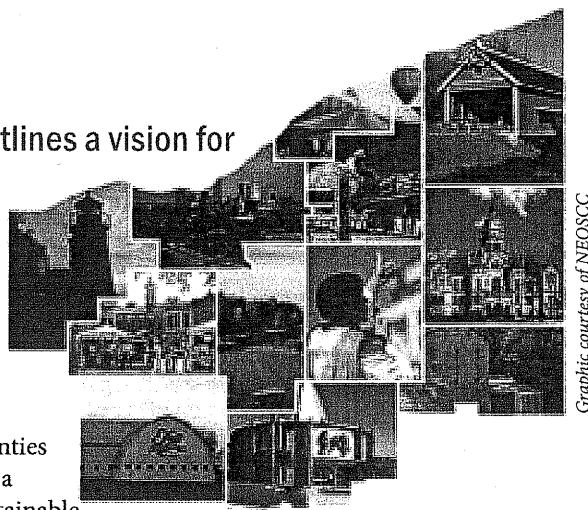
The work of the 33-member Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Consortium (NEOSCC) reached its pinnacle this year as *Vibrant NEO 2040* was released.

Vibrant NEO 2040 presents a regional vision for how 12 counties in northeast Ohio can grow in a more vibrant, resilient and sustainable fashion, and includes recommendations for turning this vision into a reality. The plan reflects the values and priorities of thousands of northeast Ohioans whose input was registered in a robust public engagement process. The framework of recommendations and initiatives in the final plan will become a resource and guide for voluntary local government planning efforts.

The development of *Vibrant NEO 2040* was funded through a \$4.25 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities planning grant. NOACA served as fiscal agent for NEOSCC and Executive Director Grace Gallucci chaired the NEOSCC Board of Directors.

NOACA spearheads Northern Ohio Rail Alliance formation

NOACA entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) and the Erie Regional Planning Commission (ERPC) to create a Northern Ohio Rail Alliance (NORA). This partnership will enable rail station projects in Toledo, Sandusky, Elyria and Cleveland to be combined into a single intermodal rail corridor project and leverage the combined resources of three metropolitan planning organizations jointly to seek federal and state funding grants specifically targeted for multimodal, multi-jurisdictional transportation projects. Funding support will help move these projects forward and address rapidly growing demand and safety issues in the rail corridor.



Graphic courtesy of NEOSCC



Planning with Vision

PRESERVE existing infrastructure

NOACA commits much of its funding and resources to preserving and maintaining northeast Ohio's transportation system and making it more efficient. NOACA expects to devote at least 90 percent of northeast Ohio's future infrastructure funding to preserving the region's existing roads, bridges and transit facilities.

Transportation Asset Management Program addresses the region's preservation needs

In 2013, NOACA launched a Transportation Asset Management Program (TAMP) aimed at improving and sustaining the condition of the region's roadway infrastructure toward a state of good repair. The program addresses federal requirements that metropolitan planning organizations prepare their long-range transportation plans and transportation improvement programs with a performance-driven, outcome-based approach to planning. NOACA engaged a consultant to help develop a new asset management policy and plan that incorporates asset management into the long-range planning process.

This year, the NOACA Board adopted a Provisional Transportation Asset Management Policy to address the region's immediate repair needs over the next two fiscal years while the TAMP is being developed. The provisional policy is a blend of backlogged maintenance projects and preventive maintenance projects. NOACA's Regional Pavement Management System used pavement condition rating and traffic data as prioritization tools to select the maintenance projects to be implemented. Staff also prepared Asset Management Reports for each NOACA member county to assess pavement conditions and determine the road segments that need preventive maintenance or minor rehabilitation to optimize them to a state of good repair.



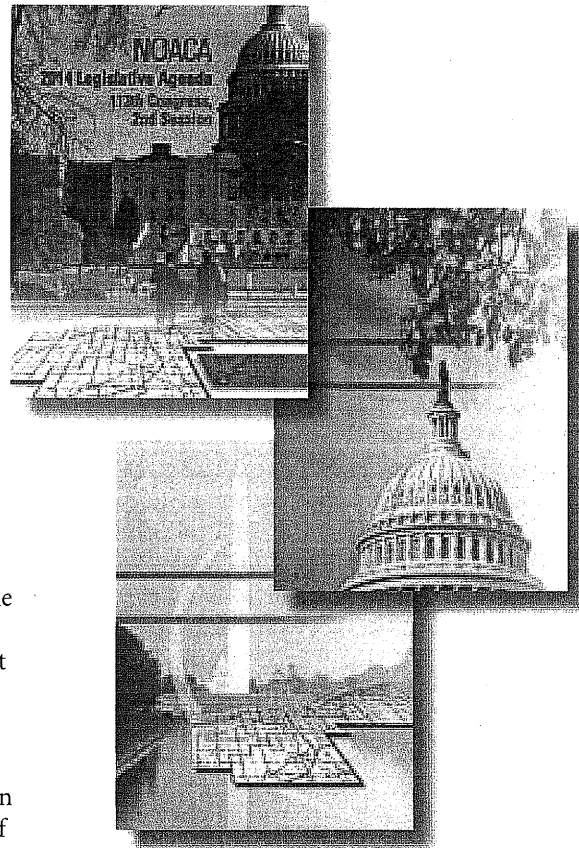
NOACA's Provisional Transportation Asset Management Policy will help prioritize pavement maintenance projects.

NOACA rolls out Legislative Agenda

In August 2014, President Obama signed into law \$10.8 billion in temporary funding for highway and transit construction. The bill, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, will keep the Highway Trust Fund solvent through May 2015 and allows the flow of federal funding for transportation improvement projects to continue.

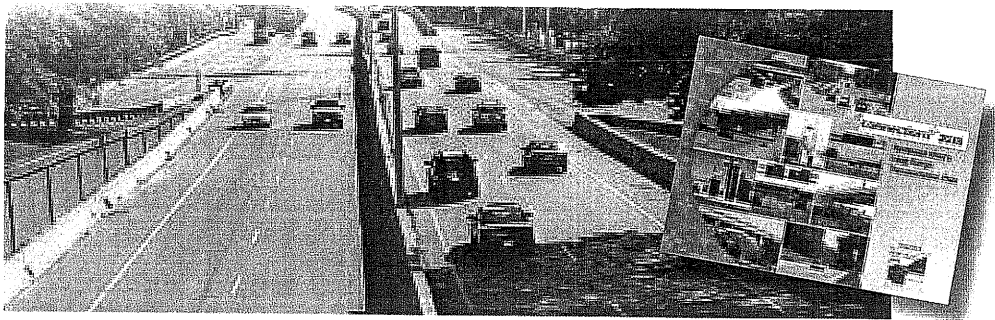
Ahead of this action, NOACA adopted a legislative agenda that advocates a transportation platform and priorities for Congress to consider in any new surface transportation law. The legislative agenda outlines the following priorities:

- Give metropolitan planning organizations local control over core funding programs: the Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, and the Transportation Alternatives Program.
 - Make transportation asset management a funding priority.
 - Incorporate safety, sustainability, and multimodalism within state and local planning.
- A key issue embedded in the reauthorization of the surface transportation bill is the need for
- stable and predictable funding to satisfy the nation's transportation infrastructure requirements. The Highway Trust Fund, the federal transportation fund sustained by motor fuel tax revenues, remains critically low. The NOACA Board approved a resolution urging Congress to pass a comprehensive surface transportation bill with a long-term predictable funding mechanism. The resolution also requests that any new funding proposal:
 - Meet the needs of northeast Ohio for a sustainable transportation system that is in a state of good repair.
 - Provide funding in a way that promotes regional cohesion by ensuring that all modes of transportation have safe access to roadways.
 - Focus on preserving the existing infrastructure.
 - Provide a truly sustainable multimodal program, thus ensuring that people have choices available for their mobility needs.



- Maintain and build on the existing federal program.
- Continue to include a source that is based on the principle of a "user fee."

The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 provides a short-term solution for the nation's transportation improvement funding needs. NOACA will continue to promote its legislative agenda in 2015 when lawmakers resume discussion on the next surface transportation bill.

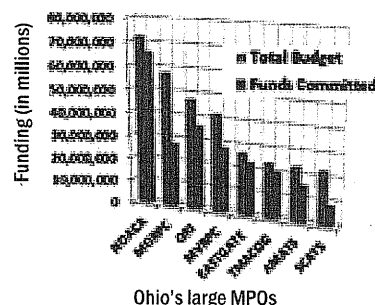


Planning with Vision

Connections⁺ 2035, NOACA's long-range transportation plan

NOACA adopted a long-range transportation plan in 2013 that offers a vision of northeast Ohio's transportation system through the year 2035 and guides transportation investment over the next 20 years. Once added to the long-range plan, transportation projects and programs are eligible for federal transportation funds. Every quarter, NOACA adds projects to the plan after they undergo a comprehensive review process that gives staff, committees, the Board of Directors and the public an opportunity to review and comment on projects before they are approved for funding. During fiscal year 2014, NOACA amended *Connections⁺ 2035* with 95 new projects totaling \$227.7 million. It also initiated an effort to augment the plan with a more comprehensive list of minor projects through a solicitation of local governments.

State Fiscal Year 2014
Capital Program Delivery



NOACA commits funding to projects through the TIP

NOACA's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the prioritized list of federal-aid highway, transit, bikeway and enhancement projects scheduled for construction over the next four years in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. It is the region's capital improvement tool for implementing projects contained in the long-range transportation plan. The current TIP, for state fiscal years 2014-2017, contains \$1.9 billion in transportation improvement projects.

The Ohio Department of Transportation encourages metropolitan planning organizations

(MPOs) to spend down the annual funding balances allocated for transportation improvement projects and efficiently move projects to the construction phase. For state fiscal year 2014, NOACA helped turn \$66 million of the \$72.2 million allocated to the region into projects. This was the agency's most efficient capital program in the past decade. NOACA also delivered the most efficient program of the eight largest MPOs in the state, with 91 percent of its project funding committed to projects.

By the close of the fiscal year, project sponsors secured NOACA-controlled funding for roads, transit

and multimodal projects throughout the region, including:

- A traffic signal upgrade in Lakewood
- The Bell Road repair and resurfacing in South Russell Village
- The Valley Parkway Bridge repair in Broadview Heights
- Bus and paratransit vehicle replacements for RTA and Laketran
- Shared use paths in Mentor and Medina
- Enhancements on Fleet Avenue and Eddy Road Bridge in Cleveland
- Belvoir Boulevard repair and resurfacing in University Heights and South Euclid

NOACA-funded projects in pictures

The transportation improvements on this page were completed during fiscal year 2014 with the support of NOACA-controlled funding.

1. Fitch Road railroad grade separation in Olmsted Township, Cuyahoga County
2. RTA Cedar/University Red Line rapid station, Cleveland
3. Auburn Road resurfacing from Thwing Road to Mentor Road in Chardon Township, Geauga County
4. Replacement buses for Laketrans, Lake County
5. Black River Trail Phase 4A, Elyria, Lorain County
6. Traffic signal upgrade, Brunswick, Medina County

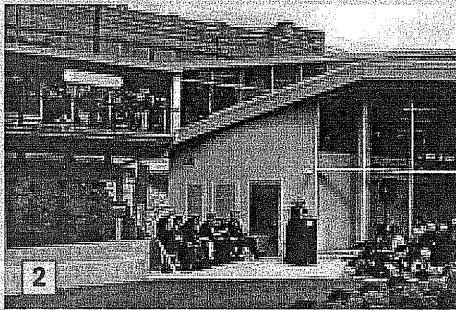
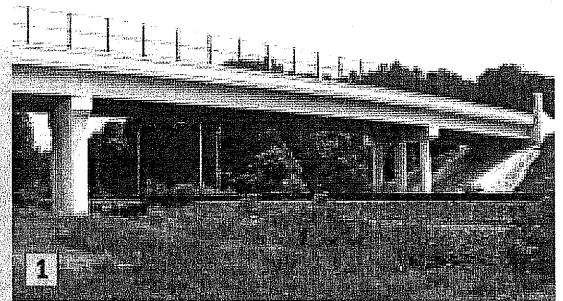


Photo courtesy of RTA



Photo courtesy of the Geauga County Engineer

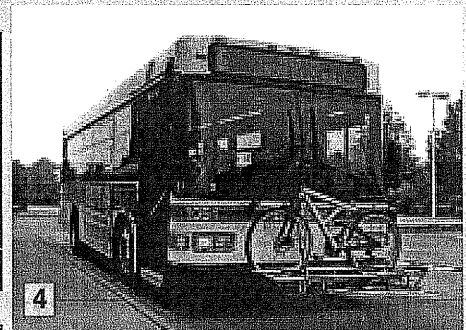
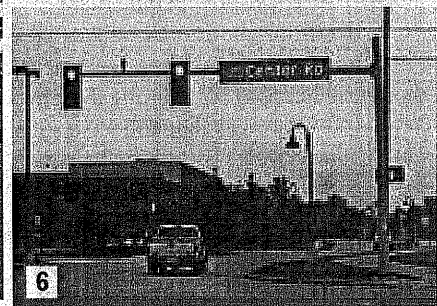


Photo courtesy of Laketrans



In 2014, NOACA:

- Committed \$66 million out of a total of \$72 million in allocated funds
- Improved more than 36 miles of roadways
- Upgraded citywide signals in one community
- Improved more than 11 miles of facilities for bicycle, pedestrian and transit travel
- Replaced 30 buses
- Provided operating assistance to maintain special transportation service in Cuyahoga County and fixed route service in Medina County



GOAL 3

BUILD

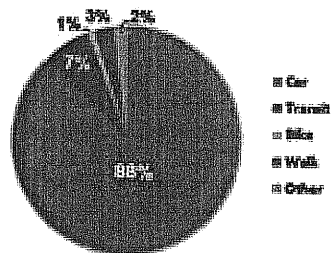
a sustainable multimodal transportation system

Transportation infrastructure provides access to jobs, schools, health care facilities, entertainment venues and recreation. NOACA supports a balanced transportation system with mode choices people want and need. To further this goal, NOACA invests staff resources and funding toward a variety of transit, bicycle, enhancement, safety studies and road improvement projects.

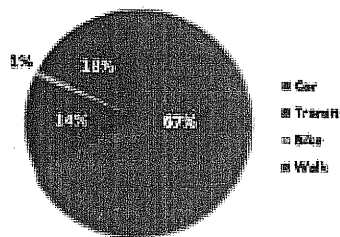
Results are in for the Regional Household Travel Survey

NOACA conducted the Northeast Ohio Regional Travel Survey to discover how people make decisions about their daily trips and travel in our area. Volunteers used Global Positioning System (GPS) devices that collected such data as travel time, trip distance, and routes traveled. NOACA received completed surveys from 4,545 households, exceeding the sampling goal by seven percent. The information collected will be used to update and validate NOACA's travel forecast model, which will help planners focus on transportation improvements that serve the region's diverse travel needs.

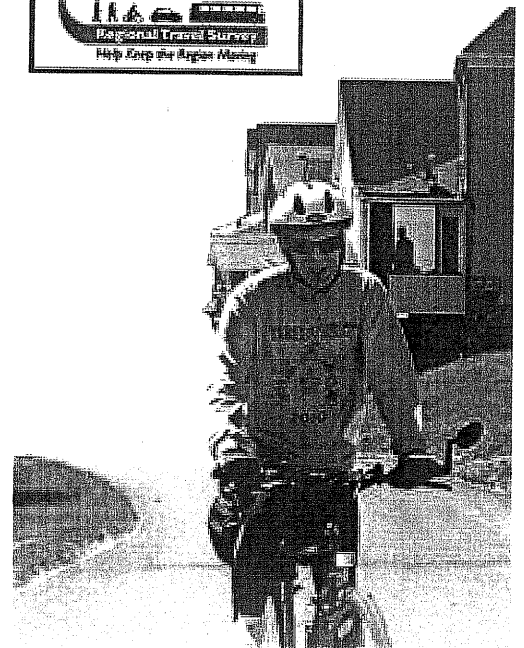
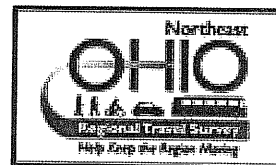
Mode Share - Total Commuters



Mode Share - Downtown Commuters



Source: Regional Household Travel Survey



NOACA supports transit

Transit is a crucial component of the region's multimodal transportation system. Thousands of commuters, many of them without personal vehicles, rely on the region's transit systems to get to work. NOACA supports the region's transit organizations, routinely funding bus replacements, special vehicles to transport senior adults and people with disabilities, and transit infrastructure.

In 2013, NOACA supported RTA's Clifton Boulevard Transit Enhancement Project, contributing \$600,000 in transportation alternatives funding to cover the cost of 16 new transit stations and landscaping along Clifton Boulevard. RTA expects this project to be completed in fall 2014. NOACA also committed funding to two Red Line rapid transit station

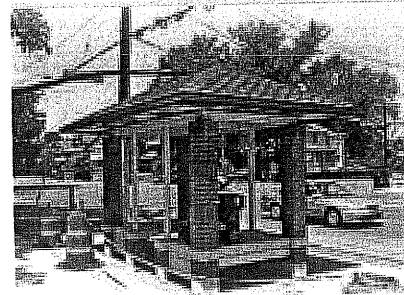


Photo courtesy of RTA

New bus shelter on Clifton Avenue in Lakewood

projects in the University Circle area. The NOACA funds will help implement enhancements that ease pedestrian access.

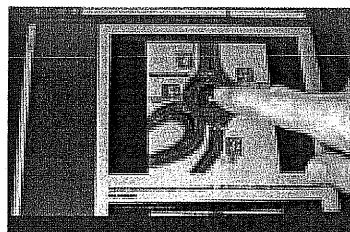
NOACA funding implements bicycle and pedestrian projects

In 2013, NOACA approved a Regional Bicycle Plan that includes a goal of planning and implementing more bicycle facilities. NOACA has made progress toward that goal by investing in bicycle and shared-use paths. During fiscal year 2014, NOACA committed funding to:

- The Mayfield Village Greenway Trail, \$1.1 million
- Right-of-way for the Towpath Trail from Steelyard Commons to the Quigley Avenue/West 3rd Street trailhead in Cleveland, \$1 million
- Right-of-way for the Maple Highlands Trail connector from Fifth Street to Water Street in Chardon, \$148,000
- Mill Creek Connector Trail Phase II, Garfield/Warner Roads to Bacci Park in Garfield Heights, \$600,000
- Morton-Headlands Trail II along Jordan Drive in Mentor, \$750,000
- City Bike Trail, Reagan Parkway to SR-18 in Medina, \$833,000
- Pedestrian improvements on Belvoir Boulevard from Fairmount Boulevard to Mayfield Road, \$440,000
- Pedestrian/streetscape improvements on Fleet Avenue from the I-77 overpass to East 65th Street, \$1.2 million

NOACA also continues to monitor public use of bicycle facilities through its bicycle and pedestrian count program, which is conducted in May and September.

As northeast Ohio continues to embrace bicycling and walking as practical alternatives to driving a car, interest in implementing more trail facilities is building momentum. The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission organized the Greater Cleveland Trail Leadership Network, a collaboration of regional leaders, to identify projects that would link to established trails and create a comprehensive greenway system that connects Cleveland to its east side suburbs. The collaborative anticipates leveraging the combined resources of the member organizations to fund and implement trail projects. NOACA will work with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission to establish a clearinghouse of bicycle/pedestrian projects, beginning with Cuyahoga County and expanding out to inventory adjacent counties.



Planning with Vision

NOACA addresses regional safety

Improving the safety of the transportation system is one of the federally required planning factors to be considered in the transportation planning process. NOACA gathers and analyzes traffic and crash data and identifies effective strategies for making the region's roads safer through

congestion and crash-site analyses and road safety assessments. These studies not only look at reducing accidents, but make safety recommendations for biking, walking, and transit.

With the help of a \$17,000 federal highway INVEST program grant and \$10,000 from ODOT, NOACA

will develop a regional safety action plan to address fatal and severe injury crashes. The action plan will help NOACA determine locations for road safety assessments. Project sponsors can use recommendations from these studies to apply for highway safety improvement funds.

Road safety assessments result in safety improvements

NOACA, together with safety personnel from local communities and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) conducts safety assessments (RSAs) at high-accident intersections throughout northeast Ohio. A road safety

assessment team evaluates the traffic and operating conditions at intersections or along road segments, identifies deficiencies and hazards, and recommends low-cost improvements that can improve safety and reduce accidents. After an RSA report has been completed, communities and project sponsors can apply for federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funding.

In 2014, NOACA staff participated in a road safety assessment for the intersection of Brookpark Road and Rocky River Drive in Cleveland, and published an RSA report for the SR-2 and East 305th Street interchange in the cities of Wickliffe and Willowick.

NOACA also provided technical assistance to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the City of Cleveland to evaluate operations and safety at the West 14th Street/Quigley Avenue roundabout in Tremont. Motorists had difficulties safely navigating the roundabout. NOACA staff performed field analysis and developed a tool to collect the arrival times of approaching and circulating vehicles and calculate gaps in the roundabout's traffic flow. As a result of the study, ODOT improved the roundabout by reducing lanes, upgrading pavement markings and adding new signage to the approaches.



NOACA staff participated in a road safety assessment at Brookpark Road and Rocky River Drive in Cleveland.

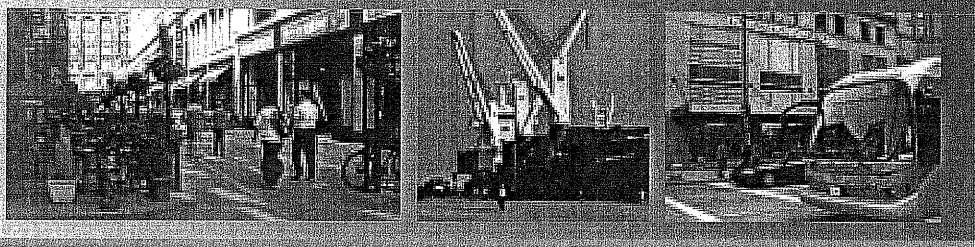


Photo of the Fortunastraat courtesy of the Greater Cleveland Partnership

GOAL 4

SUPPORT economic development

GOAL 5

ENHANCE quality of life

Transportation affects and shapes the region's economic health and quality of life. It directly influences a variety of issues of interest to the public, including air and water quality, safety, land use and economic development. Through its planning and data-gathering capabilities and funding allocations, NOACA supports projects and programs that grow the regional economy and promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

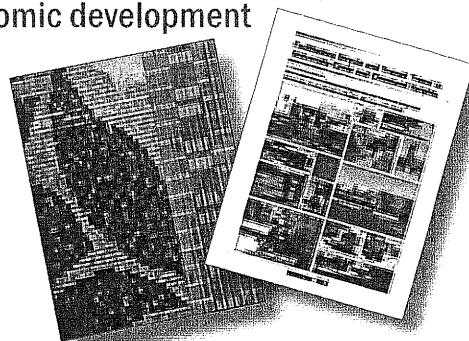
TLCI program improves community livability and drives economic development

NOACA's Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) program offers funding and technical assistance to communities and public agencies for transportation and land-use planning that strengthens community livability. With the help of NOACA TLCI funding awards, communities prepare planning and safety studies that help build a multimodal transportation network, influence economic development and improve quality of life. Investments in good planning work will pay off for cities and neighborhoods; TLCI studies often provide the catalyst for project

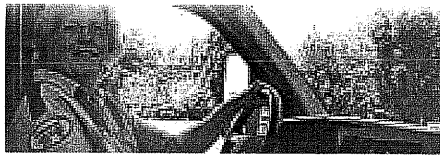
implementation and community enhancement.

Since 2006, the year that NOACA initiated the TLCI, 31 transportation projects have resulted from studies generated by NOACA TLCI planning grants. These projects, processed through Project Planning Review for federal funding assistance, represent an investment of \$113 million for the NOACA region. In addition, TLCI project sponsors attribute an estimated \$176 million in infrastructure investment to TLCI planning studies.

In 2014, NOACA's Board of Directors approved \$998,000 in TLCI funding for 13 transportation



planning studies. Additionally, the Board awarded technical assistance from NOACA staff to six transportation studies in five cities. The goal of NOACA's Technical Assistance program is to improve the safety, efficiency, and preservation of the transportation system to retain and attract residents and businesses.



Meeting the transportation needs of senior adults and persons with disabilities

NOACA is committed to meeting the transportation needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities who are unable to drive, yet otherwise can lead active and independent lives. The need for service to these special populations is becoming more acute as the region's population ages.

NOACA works with ODOT to obtain funding for nonprofit organizations and communities that provide transportation services, to purchase special wheelchair lift-equipped vehicles and computer equipment. In August 2014, ODOT awarded funding to four social service agencies in Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina counties to purchase vehicles through the Specialized Transportation Program.

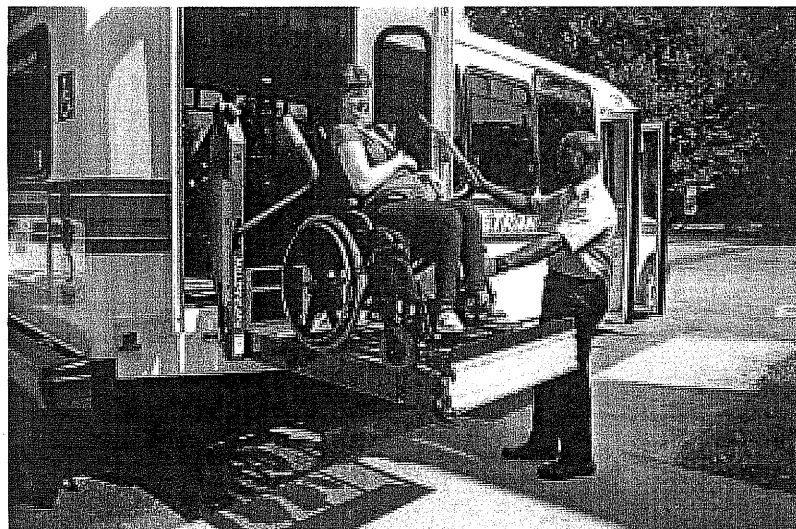
NOACA is the region's designated administrator for the federal New Freedom grant program. The program supports new or expanded public transportation services that go beyond what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The intent of the program is to help seniors and persons with disabilities to participate fully in society and eliminate barriers to joining the workforce. During the past year, NOACA conducted two

funding rounds for New Freedom funding, awarding grants to seven organizations for a total of \$1.15 million.

The federal surface transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), combines the New Freedom and Specialized Transportation Programs into a new program called Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities. Under the law, metropolitan planning organizations are eligible to become the designated recipient for funding.

NOACA is currently seeking this designation from the governor of Ohio, and plans to develop policies related to procurement and grants management, develop a new funding application and administer the program.

NOACA received an ODOT mobility management planning grant to hire a mobility manager who is working with social service agencies to improve access for the region's elderly and disabled, remove barriers to transportation and enhance their quality of life.



Photos on this page courtesy of Laketrans

NOACA commits funding to Laketrans to purchase wheelchair lift-equipped vehicles for Dial-A-Ride service.

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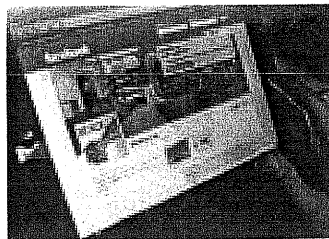
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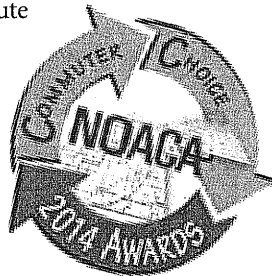
NOACA staff conduct a public meeting and webinar for the fiscal year 2015 Overall Work Program.

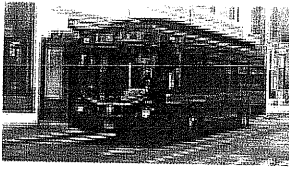
This year, NOACA's communication staff is assisting the External Affairs Committee in forming Business and Community Advisory Councils. The councils, which will each have 15 members from across NOACA's five-county region, will provide input about the effectiveness of the agency's programs and help expand and facilitate public outreach.

NOACA encourages individuals to make fewer trips driving alone and more trips by environmentally friendly transportation modes such as bicycling, carpooling, walking and taking transit. Organizations can also take an active role in supporting alternative transportation modes by offering incentives to employees—such as discounted transit passes, preferred parking for car or vanpools, and bicycle racks and lockers—who choose environmentally friendly modes.



In 2014, NOACA launched the Commuter Choice Awards to recognize businesses and organizations that foster alternative transportation choices for their employees. Organizations that participate can receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze rating based on the percentage of employees who engage in environmentally friendly commuting alternatives and on the organization's incentives, policies and investments that support commute alternatives. NOACA will present Commuter Choice Awards at its Annual Meeting.





Air quality planning helps the region breathe easier

NOACA's air quality programs focus on improving regional air quality and educating the public about ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution. NOACA monitors and forecasts the region's air quality, and issues advisories when ozone or fine particle air pollution is expected to reach harmful levels. Air quality advisories alert everyone—but especially the elderly, young children, and persons with respiratory conditions—to limit outdoor activities when air quality is unhealthy. When conditions prove favorable for the creation of ground-level ozone or fine particle pollution, NOACA also encourages people voluntarily to limit automobile refueling, lawn mowing and outdoor grilling, and to take alternative transportation modes to work instead of driving alone. Due to an uncharacteristically cool and wet summer in 2014, NOACA has issued just one air quality advisory to date.

NOACA continues to administer OhioRideshare, the online carpool ride-matching assistance program, and Bike Buddies, a program that allows bicyclists to find riding partners. Both programs encourage shared commutes,

which reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. This year, staff began researching various online programs that provide incentives to commuters for using environmentally friendly transportation modes. Staff successfully applied for and received Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement program funding through ODOT to support NOACA's air quality planning and outreach efforts for FY2015.

The CMAQ program provides funding to implement transportation projects that help improve air quality in regions that are not meeting clean air standards. Projects that improve traffic flow and reduce emissions, including traffic signal upgrades, transit vehicle replacements and bicycle and pedestrian facilities are eligible for CMAQ funding.

In 2014, for the first time, projects will be submitted to a statewide committee that will determine the distribution of CMAQ funds among Ohio's metropolitan planning organizations. This new program replaces individual programs that each large metropolitan planning

organization had managed for many years. NOACA solicited applications from sponsors in its five-county region and reviewed the submittals prior to forwarding them to the statewide committee. Part of NOACA's review included an air quality emissions analysis to calculate the impact of each project on the region's air quality if implemented. NOACA received 21 applications totaling \$165 million for CMAQ funding.



Water quality planning efforts cultivate a collaborative approach

Healthy water is crucial to our region's quality of life and a sustainable and prosperous economy. NOACA's water quality planning efforts actively support regional efforts that preserve, improve and maximize sewage treatment capacity and foster a collaborative approach to flood, wastewater and storm water planning. Just as the NOACA Board implemented a process to develop a regional Strategic Plan, NOACA's water quality planning staff has initiated the process to develop a strategic water quality plan. NOACA's strategic Water Quality Plan will outline the organization's future efforts in regional flood, wastewater and storm water planning.

For almost 40 years NOACA has served as the region's Areawide Planning Agency under Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act. In this capacity, NOACA is responsible for maintaining and updating the region's Water Quality Management Plan, known as *Clean Water 2000*. A comprehensive update to the plan is underway, and NOACA staff will seek input from the Water Quality Management Committee to develop a strategic vision, objectives and focus areas that will serve as its foundation. Staff is reviewing the Clean Water Plan to assess relevancy of the existing plan, policies and programs that have been

implemented over the past 15 years, including changes in demographics and socioeconomics, and shifting regional water quality priorities.

NOACA staff also processes requests to change facility planning area (FPA) boundaries for wastewater management and treatment prescription options. The NOACA Board considers these requests to facilitate the efficient and cost-effective treatment of wastewater. In 2014, the Board approved the following requests:

- City of Elyria FPA to Avon Lake/Lorain County Rural Wastewater District (LORCO) FPA
- French Creek FPA to the City of Lorain FPA
- Parcel prescription changes to the Geauga County FPA

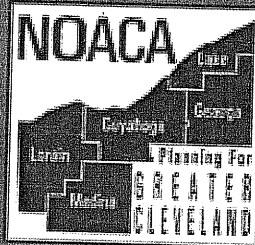
This year the NOACA Board also amended *Clean Water 2000* to include a 90-day time limit for affected parties to respond to proposed FPA boundary changes and treatment prescription changes. This action encourages affected entities to expedite their response and avoid delays in the approval process.



Together with Ohio EPA and the Northeast Ohio Storm Water Training Council, NOACA hosted a workshop for local communities that will need to update their Storm Water Management Plan to meet the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Workshop attendees learned about the permit requirements for sediment and erosion control, pollution prevention practices and post-construction water quality management.

During the next year, NOACA will host a 208 Water Quality Management Plan workshop for local wastewater treatment operators, engineering consultants and developers to provide an in-depth overview of Ohio EPA and NOACA's planning and oversight responsibilities regarding the management of wastewater treatment facility planning areas.

NOACA will also work with the Painesville and Fairport Harbor drinking water facilities to develop a Source Water Protection Plan that will focus on improved communications for emergency situations and the need for redundancy and resiliency planning for drinking water intakes.



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114 - 3204
Phone: 216-241-2414
Fax: 216-621-3024
www.noaca.org

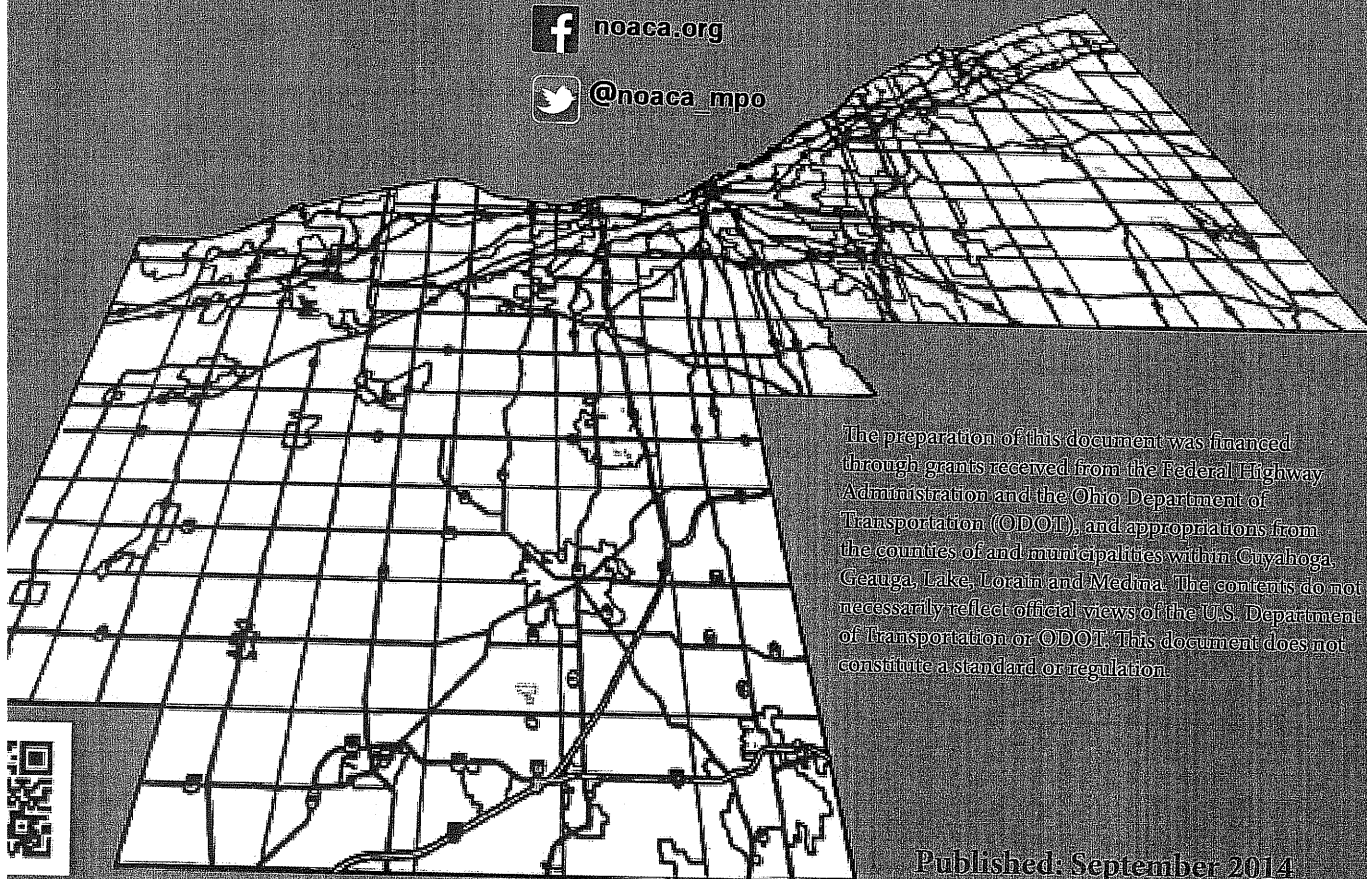
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The preparation of this document was financed through grants received from the Federal Highway Administration and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and appropriations from the counties of and municipalities within Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina. The contents do not necessarily reflect official views of the U.S. Department of Transportation or ODOT. This document does not constitute a standard or regulation.

Published: September 2014





HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Shaun Donovan, Secretary
Office of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20410

HUD No. 10-233

Brian Sullivan

(202) 708-0685

<http://www.hud.gov/news/index.cfm>

FOR RELEASE

Thursday

October 14, 2010

HUD AWARDS NEARLY \$100 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS TO PROMOTE SMARTER AND SUSTAINABLE PLANNING FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Part of Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities

WASHINGTON – For the first time ever, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding nearly \$100 million in new grants to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan today announced that 45 regional areas will receive funding through a new initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.

HUD's new Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program will support State, local, and tribal governments, as well as metropolitan planning organizations, in the development and execution of regional plans that integrate affordable housing with neighboring retail and business development (see attached list of grantees). Many of the grants will leverage existing infrastructure and all reward local collaboration and innovation.

"Regions that embrace sustainable communities will have a built-in competitive edge in attracting jobs and private investment," said Donovan. "Planning our communities smarter means parents will spend less time driving and more time with their children; more families will live in safe, stable communities near good schools and jobs; and more businesses will have access to the capital and talent they need to grow and prosper. In awarding these grants we were committed to using insight and innovation from our stakeholders and local partners to develop a 'bottom-up' approach to changing federal policy as opposed to 'top-down.' Rather than sticking to the old Washington playbook of dictating how communities can invest their grants, HUD's application process encouraged creative, locally focused thinking."

These grants are part of the Obama Administration's Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings EPA, HUD, USDA and DOT together to ensure that the agencies' policies, programs, and funding consider affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection together. This interagency collaboration gets better results for communities and uses taxpayer money more efficiently. Coordinating federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services meets multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives with each dollar spent. The Partnership is helping communities across the country to create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods

-more-

HUD No. 10-233

Page 2

that attract businesses. At a time when every dollar the federal government invests in jumpstarting the economy is critical, the President's plan ensures that all these agencies are coordinating efforts and targeting resources with precision. Reflecting this new collaboration, these grants were judged by a multidisciplinary review team, drawn from eight federal agencies and from partners in philanthropy.

HUD's inaugural grants under this program will support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that incorporate housing, land use, economic development, transportation and infrastructure. This holistic planning approach will benefit diverse areas across the U.S. including \$25.6 million split evenly between regions with populations less than 500,000 and rural places (fewer than 200,000 people). HUD is reserving \$2 million to help all of these areas build the needed capacity to execute their plans.

The grants are awarded through one of two categories. One category of grants will assist regional planning for sustainable development where such plans do not currently exist. A second category of funding will support the implementation of existing sustainability plans.

Shelley Poticha, the director of HUD's new Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities said, "The response to this program is huge. We were inundated with applications from every state and two territories – from central cities to rural areas and tribal governments. This program was designed by people from local government, and incorporated local input at every stage."

###

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Finalists

State	Grantee	Area	CAT	Grant Amount
Alabama	East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission	Anniston	1	\$225,000
Arizona	Apache County	St. Johns	1	\$820,500
Arkansas	Southern Bancorp Capital Partners	Helena-West Helena	1	\$710,900
California	California State University, Fresno Foundation	Fresno	2	\$4,000,000
	Sacramento Area Council of Governments	Sacramento	2	\$1,500,000
Connecticut	Capitol Region Council of Governments	Hartford	2	\$4,200,000
	Windham Region Council of Governments	Willimantic	1	\$225,000
Florida	South Florida Regional Planning Council	Hollywood	1	\$4,250,000
	Central Florida Regional Planning Council	Bartow	1	\$1,400,000
Illinois	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Chicago	2	\$4,250,000
	Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	Peoria	2	\$1,200,000
	Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning	Rockford	1	\$600,000
Indiana	Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization	Evansville	1	\$1,420,300
Iowa	Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Urbandale	1	\$2,200,000
Kentucky	University of Kentucky Research Foundation	Lexington	1	\$680,000
Maine	Greater Portland Council of Governments	Portland	1	\$1,600,000
Maine	Northern Maine Development Commission	Caribou	1	\$800,000
Massachusetts	Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Boston	2	\$4,000,000
	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Pittsfield	1	\$590,700
	Franklin Regional Council of Governments	Greenfield	1	\$425,000
Michigan	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments	Detroit	2	\$2,850,000
Minnesota	Metropolitan Council	St. Paul	2	\$5,000,000
	Region Five Development Commission	Staples	1	\$825,050
Mississippi	Gulf Regional Planning Commission	Gulfport	1	\$2,000,000
Missouri	East-West Gateway Council of Governments	Saint Louis	1	\$4,687,750
	Mid-America Regional Council	Kansas city	2	\$4,250,000
New York	Regional Plan Association Inc.	New York	2	\$3,500,000
North Carolina	Land-of-Sky Regional Council	Asheville	1	\$1,600,000
	Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation	Greensboro	1	\$1,600,000
Ohio	Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency	Cleveland	1	\$4,250,000
Oregon	Lane Council of Governments	Eugene	2	\$1,450,000

South Dakota	Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation	Porcupine	1	\$996,100
Tennessee	City of Knoxville, Tennessee	Knoxville	1	\$4,327,500
Texas	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Houston	1	\$3,750,000
	Capital Area Council of Governments	Austin	2	\$3,700,000
Utah	Salt Lake County	Salt lake city	2	\$5,000,000
Vermont	Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Winooski	2	\$995,000
Virginia	New River Valley Planning District Commission	Radford	1	\$1,000,000
	Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission	Charlottesville	2	\$999,000
	Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission	Roanoke	1	\$625,000
Washington	Puget Sound Regional Council	Seattle	2	\$ 4,999,700
	Thurston Regional Planning Council	Olympia	1	\$1,500,000
Wisconsin	Capital Area Regional Planning Commission	Madison	2	\$1,997,500
	Northwoods NiiJii Enterprise Community, Inc.	Lac du Flambeau	1	\$525,000
	Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	Platteville	1	\$475,000
Reserved for Capacity Building				\$2,000,000
TOTAL				\$100,000,000

harry

Harry Conard, Jr.
Governmental Programs Administrator
Department of Development
112 Hamilton Ave, 4th fl
Cleveland, OH 44114
Office # 216.443.7260
Direct # 216.443.7531
Fax # 216.443.7260

>>> "John Mitterholzer" jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org > 4/5/2010 10:05 AM >>

Harry Conard - RE: Sustainable Communities

From: "John Mitterholzer" <jmitterholzer@gundfdn.org>
To: "Harry Conard" <hconard@cuyahogacounty.us>
Date: 4/13/2010 4:09 PM
Subject: RE: Sustainable Communities

Harry,

I have spoken to the GAR, Stark Community Foundation, and the Lorain Community Foundation and they are all interested in participating in the application process. They have also all agreed to reach out to the mayors of Canton, Akron, Lorain, and Elyria and to seek their support. So far, I have raised \$15k towards a facilitator and a grant writer.

John

From: Harry Conard [mailto:hconard@cuyahogacounty.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 2:34 PM
To: John Mitterholzer
Subject: Re: Sustainable Communities

Since I am unable to send you an email direct, I wanted to share with you the email I just sent to K. Silliman in Jackson's office.

harry

Mr. Silliman,

I was asked by Jim McCafferty to send you this background email and attachment.

The attachment is HUD's Advance Notice and Request for Comment for a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. This document served as the basis for conversations held at six locations around the nation. One session was held here in Cleveland on March 10th and sparked discussion on ways our region could work together and begin planning for Sustainable Growth. As you know, working together on regional issues is very new for governments in North East Ohio. The NOFA is expected to be issued in Mid-May will offer planning grants up to \$5 million to **Regional Collaborations**.

By its very size, such a grant would be a powerful stimulus to beginning that "working cooperatively conversation" and would build on the work of Voices and Choices, foundation initiatives, and new programming at Cleveland City Hall and in other communities in the region.

One small discussion group met at NOACA's offices to determine if seeking such a planning grant was feasible from the viewpoint of local foundations, the regional Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and local governments. No specific project or direction was even considered. There will another such meeting at NOACA on Tuesday, April 20th at 2:30 pm. We would welcome the City's participation.

Thank you for your time,



Cleveland, Akron part of regional planning group that wins \$4.25 million 'sustainable communities' grant

Published: Friday, October 15, 2010, 1:04 PM Updated: Saturday, October 16, 2010, 7:51 AM



By **Tom Breckenridge, The Plain Dealer**



[View full size](#)

City Architecture

Transportation planners work extensively with diagrams like this one by City Architecture of Cleveland, showing proposed on- and off-ramps to the Inner Belt that were under discussion in 2008.

Updated at 4:15 p.m.

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Regional planning focused on fortifying existing neighborhoods and linking people with jobs will be fueled by a \$4.25 million federal grant.

Twenty-one entities, including Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Youngstown, won a "sustainable communities" grant **announced today** by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The effort "seeks to develop a comprehensive regional plan that can catalyze economic development and

support a healthy lifestyle for all of us," said Howard Maier, head of the **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency**, a transportation planning group that was the lead applicant for the money.

The 21 entities are from 12 counties, stretching from the Mahoning Valley to Lorain. They formed a consortium that was among 45 winners nationwide of grants totaling \$100 million.

The grants are an effort by President Obama's administration to encourage federal agencies, and the regions that receive their money, to create more vital, diverse and connected communities.

Such communities attract skilled workers and the companies that want them, Shaun Donovan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, said in an interview at The Plain Dealer.

Donovan announced the grant today at NOACA offices in downtown Cleveland, joined by Mayor Frank Jackson and U.S. Reps. Marcia Fudge and Dennis Kucinich, Democrats from Cleveland, and Tim Ryan, from Niles.

HUD will join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation in overseeing the grants.

A major thrust will be planning that encourages people to live closer to where they work, thereby reducing transportation costs, relieving highway congestion and improving the environment, Donovan said.

"The problem historically has been that more and more development has spread out in an uncoordinated way," Donovan said. "We haven't planned transportation investments so that they connect housing to jobs."

HUD, EPA and the Department of Transportation send tens of millions of dollars a year to cities, counties and planning agencies in Northeast Ohio for programs and projects, especially in housing and transportation.

But the local jurisdictions rarely plan together to ensure the big investments sustain the entire region, rather than help some communities and hurt others.

Locally, planners said they'd like to see strategies encouraging communities to unify in the global competition for business, rather than against each other.

"I don't think it will be a panacea," Jason Segedy, director of the **Akron-area transportation-planning group**, said of the planning effort. "If we don't change the world, that's OK. But if we can make a better land-use decision in one community, that's a very worthwhile thing."

The grant could help Northeast Ohio move beyond the rhetoric of regionalism, said Chris Warren, chief of regional development for Cleveland.

"This will provide a structured, disciplined way to pursue real, tangible approaches to regional cooperation," Warren said.

Northeast Ohio Consortium members

A group of 20 public and private entities, called the Northeast Ohio Consortium for a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, has landed a \$4.25 million federal grant to set regional priorities in land use, fair housing, transportation, economic development and environmental protection.

Members of the group are: Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, Stark County Regional Planning Commission/Stark County Area Transportation Study, Cuyahoga County, Lorain County, Mahoning County, Stark County, Summit County, Trumbull County, Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Warren, Youngstown, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority, Cleveland State University Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, Fund for Our Economic Future Regional Prosperity Initiative and Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority.

The **Fund for Our Economic Future**, a group of nonprofits investing millions of dollars in regional development, supplied \$25,000 to put the grant application together.

"This is a huge deal," said Brad Whitehead, president of the future fund. "It's really the first time that the region has been able to come together to win a federal grant of this proportion and dimension."


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Harry Conard - Re: Sustainable Communities

From: James McCafferty
To: Conard, Harry; Oyaski, Paul
Date: 4/5/2010 1:43 PM
Subject: Re: Sustainable Communities

Agreed.

James McCafferty, MSSA
Cuyahoga County Administrator
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1219 Ontario Street, 4th Floor
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Phone: (216) 443-7215
Fax: (216) 443-8088
Email: jmccafferty@cuyahogacounty.us
Website: www.cuyahogacounty.us

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

>>> Paul Oyaski 4/5/2010 1:23 PM >>>
This would be a good regional initiative. po

>>> Harry Conard 4/5/2010 1:22 PM >>>
I wanted to brief you on a pre-application discussion that was held on April 1st at NOACA's offices. In attendance were John Mitterholzer, representing the Gund Foundation, Howard Maier, Executive Director of NOACA and two of his staff, Douglas Shelby, Director of HUD's Cleveland Office, and myself.

HUD will be issuing a Notice of Funding Availability for three tiers of planning grants. Our area should seek a Tier 1 grant up to \$5 million for those regions/areas that have yet to develop a regional plan to promote sustainable communities. Such a grant would **assist regional collaborations - definition yet to be precisely determined.**

Mitterholzer from Gund had just met with Shelley Poticha, Director of HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities at a meeting in Pittsburgh. Poticha recognizes that this is a difficult issue for areas in the Midwest that have been hard hit with job losses. But our group agreed that obtaining such a grant would greatly assist in kick starting regional planning.

This White House is convinced that for regions to flourish, they must begin to plan on regional scales and these funds are designed to initiate that very difficult conversation. A successful application from this area would need the support of philanthropic organizations, the regional planning organizations, one applicant experienced in successfully handling HUD grants. (Potentially the County's role) as well as the involvement of the four major cities in the region - Cleveland, Canton, Akron, and Cleveland. Youngstown's mayor is on record supporting such a regional planning effort.

Additional preplanning sessions would be used to identify areas of mutual interests that would then be placed into the application. Clearly stand alone applications from individual cities or counties will not be well received or funded.

The Gund Foundation has indicated an interest in financially supporting the preparation of the application.

Appendix 8: SF-424

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

10, 11

* b. Program/Project

10, 11

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

10/1/2015

* b. End Date:

9/30/2018

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal

600,000

* b. Applicant

* c. State

* d. Local

* e. Other

* f. Program Income

* g. TOTAL

* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?

☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

☒ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)

☐ Yes

☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

Mr.

* First Name:

Larry

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Benders

Suffix:

* Title:

Director, Department of Development

* Telephone Number:

216-443-7277

Fax Number:

216-443-7260

* Email:

lbenders@cuyahogacounty.us

* Signature of Authorized Representative:



* Date Signed:

12/17/14

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

D: County Government ☒

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

C: City or Township Government ☒

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

D: Special District Government ☒

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

66.818

CFDA Title:

The Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

EPA-OSWER-2005-12-R

* Title:

EPA Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachments

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

Outreach Brownfield Cleanup project 13 to Assess Brownfield Sites in three targeted areas (Opportunity Corridor / I-85 Corridor / 1st Square's identified sites.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

1. Type of Submission:

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

2. Type of Application:

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):

* Other (Specify):

* 3. Date Received:

12/17/2014

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

Cuyahoga County Department of Development

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):

34-6000817

* c. Organizational DUNS:

629945381

d. Address:

* Street1:

2079 West 9th Street

Street2:

7th Floor

* City:

Cleveland

County/Parish:

* State:

OH: Ohio

Province:

* Country:

USA: UNITED STATES

* Zip / Postal Code:

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Department of Development

Division Name:

Brownfields

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Ms.

* First Name:

Janise

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Bayne

Suffix:

Title: Senior Development Finance Analyst

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number:

216-698-2574

Fax Number:

216-443-7258

* Email:

jbayne@cuyahogacounty.us

**Appendix 9: Support Letters from Congressional and Senatorial
Representatives**

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FINANCE
HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

December 16, 2014

Ms. Susan Hedman
Administrator Region 5
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Dear Administrator Hedman,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (NcBC) for funding in the FY2015 Brownfields Assessment Grant Program.

I understand that NcBC seeks assistance to address identified sites in and around Cuyahoga County. This funding would support the county's efforts to create redevelopment opportunities by identifying environmentally impaired and underutilized properties, and to create jobs and economic improvement by helping to assemble land for redevelopment and reuse purposes.

By supporting NcBC's efforts to redevelop these sites, your agency would enable significant improvements for Cuyahoga County and its ability to realize economic development success. Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Linda Greenwood at (419) 259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

December 15, 2014

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Attn: Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

As the U.S Environmental Protection Agency considers applications for FY2015 Brownfields Area-Wide Assessment Grants, I would like to bring your attention to the proposal submitted by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition's application.

If awarded funding, Cuyahoga County intends to address identified sites within the "Opportunity Corridor." The proposal lists as its goals the cleaning up of brownfield sites, reusing existing buildings, supporting infill/compact development, reducing urban sprawl, and addressing social inequities and health disparities.

Please give full and fair consideration to this proposal. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact stuart_zorn@brown.senate.gov of my staff.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

SB:sgz

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

RANKING MEMBER

Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on Defense

Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government



MARCY KAPTUR

9TH DISTRICT, OHIO

December 16, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

2186 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515-3509
(202) 225-4146

Fax: (202) 225-7711

OHIO OFFICES

(800) 964-4699

Fax: (419) 255-9623

<http://kaptur.house.gov>

Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am pleased to support the application being advanced by Cuyahoga County on behalf of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (NcBC) for the FY 2015 Brownfields Assessment Grant program. Cuyahoga County officials are seeking to support NcBC efforts to address identified brownfield sites within the *Opportunity Corridor*, *East 185th Street Corridor*, and *First Suburbs*, locations in and around Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland's Opportunity Corridor, a once thriving industrial region imprinted by the lives and cultural traditions of immigrant communities, has been scarred by industrial, business, and population decline. Vacant homes, blighted properties, empty buildings, and numerous identified brownfields, stand in the way of reconnecting this distressed region to full economic opportunity.

On behalf of the Corridor, NcBC members, which include the Cuyahoga Department of Development, the City of Cleveland Department of Health and Department of Economic Development, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium, began a planning process in 2010 through a U.S. EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant. The resulting plan, released in 2013, concluded that over 100 acres, or 48 percent of the total acreage, are classified as brownfields and over 37 acres, or 77 percent, are high-risk or under regulatory enforcement.

In addition, the "East 185th Street Corridor" and the "First Suburbs," areas have experienced widespread manufacturing and population decline and the subsequent hollowing-out of core community assets. NcBC will provide environmental and economic benefits by advancing brownfields cleanup and building reuse. As part of the response, the group seeks to address social inequities and health disparities in these highly-distressed communities.

Strategies to restore our great industrial cities along the Lake Erie shoreline are critical to an overall coastal revitalization effort. I urge the application's favorable review consistent with your agency's rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcy Kaptur".

MARCY KAPTUR
U.S. Representative





DAVID P. JOYCE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
14TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

December 18, 2014

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
ATTN: Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

It has recently been brought to my attention that Cuyahoga County has applied on behalf of the Northcoast Brownfield Coaliton (NcBC) for a FY2015 Assessment Grant. The purpose of this correspondence is to respectfully ask for your consideration of their proposal.

The NcBC was formed to foster a collaborative approach and focus their resources to brownfield development throughout Cuyahoga County. The proposal will support brownfield redevelopment and would work toward cleanup of brownfield sites and would address health conditions in the area. Cleveland's "Opportunity Corridor" that once consisted of neighborhoods with immigration history and industry is now an area of abandoned and foreclosed properties. The "East 185th Street Corridor" has been devastated by loss of population and industry in the past few years. Manufacturing has been lost in the "First Suburbs" area, which was the economic driving force for health and welfare of these communities. All of the areas have abandoned buildings.

With this funding, I have reason to believe that the proposal will help expand the ability to restore these areas back to healthier communities and will help create and retain jobs. With the help of the funding, they will be able to continue to make an economical difference in these neighborhoods. I, therefore, respectfully ask for your consideration of their grant proposal.

Sincerely,

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

DJ/kmd

JAMES B. RENACCI
16TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3516

130 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3876

1 PARK CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 302
WADSWORTH, OH 44281
(330) 334-0040

7335 RIDGE ROAD, SUITE 2
PARMA, OH 44129
(440) 882-6779

December 18, 2014

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attn: Edie Findeis Cromwell
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

In Re: FY2015 Assessment Grant

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I write to you today in support of the Cuyahoga County's application on behalf of the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (NcBC). The NcBC was formed to foster a collaborative approach and focus resources to brownfield redevelopment throughout Cuyahoga County, Ohio. I have long been interested and engaged in brownfield and community revitalization, and I strongly support the application.

The grant proposal continues Cuyahoga County's and the NcBC's comprehensive approach to brownfield redevelopment. It would address identified sites within the "Opportunity Corridor," "East 185th Street Corridor," and the "First Suburbs," locations in and around Cleveland, Ohio. The proposal will support brownfield redevelopment and list as its goals the actual cleanup of brownfield sites, reusing existing buildings, infill/compact development, reducing urban sprawl, and addressing social inequities and health disparities.

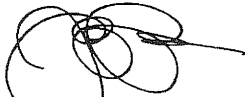
Cleveland's "Opportunity Corridor" has been an historic economic driver joining the City of Cleveland on its western border and the City of Euclid on its eastern border. What was once a group of neighborhoods steeped in the rich cultural, industrial, and immigration history, is now home to five of Cleveland's most blighted neighborhoods, rich in numerous identified and presumed brownfields, along with a multitude of foreclosed and abandoned properties. The area was a recipient of a "2010 U.S. EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning" (AWA) grant. The subsequent plan issued in 2013 found that "brownfields are omnipresent and extensive in this area," concluding that over 100 acres (48% of total acreage) are classified as brownfields and over 77 acres (37%) are high-risk or under regulatory enforcement. The "East 185th Street Corridor" is the main corridor representing the City of Cleveland's "Northeast Shores" neighborhood and the city of Euclid, Ohio. It has been devastated by the loss of industry and population in the past five years. The Coalition also plans to address sites located in the "First Suburbs," which

have also suffered population losses compounded by the disappearance of a strong manufacturing base that was the "economic driver" for the health and welfare of these communities. All of the sites are in low-moderate income areas with vacant and abandoned buildings.

The proposal draws on the strengths and experience of the NcBC members, which include Cuyahoga County Department of Development, City of Cleveland Department of Health and Department of Economic Development, and the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. I have every confidence that the proposal will help to provide environmental benefits by fostering cleaner, healthier communities; economic benefits in creating/retaining jobs, enhancing local economies, and; social benefits through promoting sustainable, vibrant and more equitable communities. I am also pleased that the County and the NcBC intend to involve community stakeholders soliciting their input and guidance throughout the entire grant project period.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Renacci", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

JR/hm

MARCIA L. FUDGE
11TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, OVERSIGHT, AND NUTRITION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HORTICULTURE, RESEARCH,
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY,
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2344 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7032; (202) 225-1339 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICES
RICHMOND HIGHLAND CENTER
4834 RICHMOND ROAD, SUITE 150
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OHIO 44128
(216) 522-4900; (216) 522-4908 FAX

LAWTON COMMUNITY CENTER
1225 LAWTON STREET
AKRON, OHIO 44326
(330) 835-4758; (330) 835-4863 FAX

E-MAIL: <http://fudge.house.gov>

December 18, 2014

Ms. Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Attn: Mrs. Edie Findeis Cromwell
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy:

I write in support of a grant application by the Northcoast Brownfield Coalition (NcBC) for a FY2015 Assessment Grant. The proposal has the support of a strong number of community stakeholders, including Cuyahoga County Department of Development, City of Cleveland Department of Health and Department of Economic Development, and the Northeast Ohio First Suburbs Consortium and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

The grant proposal continues Cuyahoga County's and the NcBC's comprehensive approach to brownfield redevelopment, which includes reusing existing buildings, reducing urban sprawl, and addressing social inequities and health disparities. The grant proposal focuses on identified sites within the "Opportunity Corridor," "East 185th Street Corridor," and "First Suburbs," locations, all of which are in low-moderate income areas with vacant and abandoned buildings.

Cleveland's Opportunity Corridor has been an historic economic driver, joining the City of Cleveland on its western border and the City of Euclid on its eastern border. What was once a group of neighborhoods steeped in the rich cultural, industrial, and immigration history, has now become home to five of Cleveland's most blighted neighborhoods. The area was a recipient of a 2010 U.S. EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWA) grant. The subsequent plan issued in 2013 found that "brownfields are omnipresent and extensive in this area," concluding that over 100 acres (48% of total acreage) are classified as brownfields and over 77 acres (37% of total acreage) are high-risk or under regulatory enforcement.

Further, the sites located in both the First Suburbs and East 185th Street Corridor have suffered population losses compounded by the disappearance of a strong manufacturing base that was the economic driver for the health and welfare of these communities. Residents in these street corridors desperately need funding to assess distressed properties and vacant sites to better promote sustainable, vibrant and more equitable communities.

I strongly support this application, which will continue Cuyahoga County's and the NcBC's comprehensive approach to brownfield redevelopment by fostering cleaner, healthier communities. I urge you to give all due consideration to this application.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia L. Fudge". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress